

Let's go back to the 361st Inf. Regt. [unclear]

THE 361ST INFANTRY REGIMENT



*1st Lt.
[unclear]*

1917 - 1955



1917

LORRAINE 1918

AUBREVILLE

MEUSE-ARGONNE 1918

BOIS DE CHEPPY

EPINONVILLE

ECLISFONTAINE

LES EPINETTES BOIS

BOIS DE CIERGES

GESNES

BOIS DU CHÊNESEC 1

HILLS 269, 255 & 289

BOIS DE MONCY

BOIS DE GESNES

WORTEGEM

AUDENARDE

BEVERE

YPPRES-LAYS 1918



MULTER HILLS
20 SEP 1918

2nd L. BOLGERIA
3rd L. LIVERGNANO

P.O. VALLEY 1945

MT. ADONE

BRENTO

MT. CASTELLAZZO

MT. DELLA CAPANNA

CEREA

TREVISO



WILD WEST

ROME-ARNO 1944

ALBAN HILLS

HIGHWAY NO. 1

NUNXIATELLO

PONTE D'ISTIA

SCALVAIA

CASOLE D'ELSA

MAZZOLA

SOLARA

ORCETO

NORTH APENNINES 1944-45

MT. RONCOLOMBELLO

HILLS 844 & 856

MT. BENI

MT. OGGLIOLO

LIVERGNANO-

ESCARPMENT

361ST LEADS -- OTHERS FOLLOW

CREDIT BOARD 361ST INFANTRY REGIMENT

U.S. Army HEADQUARTERS
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D769
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361st
A5
Documents
Capt.

FOREWORD:

The document you are about to read is unique. It is the history of an infantry regiment during its reserve status as well as while on active duty. It is a tribute to all the officers and enlisted men who are responsible for its outstanding record during many years of service both in combat and as a part of our nation's reserve complement. It is dedicated to those men.

To you who are members of the regiment I offer my heartiest congratulations for a job well done. You are the real patriots without whom our country could never hope to survive. This history belongs to you, for you are a part of it, past, present, and future.

To you who are about to become members of our regiment I offer this history as a challenge. I know that after reading it you will want to belong in order to contribute your rightful share.

To Captain Roger Heller, the author, my sincere appreciation for a most unusual and outstanding performance.

I proudly recommend to all this history of the 361st Infantry Regiment, United States Army Reserve.

Richard H. Neddersen
RICHARD H. NEDDERSEN
Colonel, Infantry -- USAR
Commanding

April 25, 1955

INTRODUCTION

The dual purpose of this 361st Infantry Regiment booklet is (1) to preserve, for those of us who have served, a summary of the few moments we have shared with the men of this Regiment, and (2) to pass on to the new arrival a record of which all may be justly proud.

A good regiment is dependent upon several factors: (1) The quality and capability of the commander, (2) The quality and capability of the troops, (3) The resources, such as number of men, armament, supplies, and transport, and (4) The morale, including all the factors that create the will to win--"There is no substitute for victory."

In our Nation, with its excellent Service schools and its tremendous industrial and business know-how, the first three requirements are met in greater measure than ever before in the history of the world. The fourth requirement is the most difficult to attain and is the real difference between great, just average, and poor military units. While adequate weapons and thorough training are a basis for solving this problem, a "common spirit" is what changes this effort into the "Will to Win".

As Americans, we represent every race, creed, and nationality known to mankind. But while each individual gains strength from his own religious belief, or disbelief, as he wills it, all of us in this Regiment share in a unique tradition and common heritage which has clearly marked men of this unit, its predecessors, and successors, from our millions of fellow citizens.

This heritage, which you will have shared with but a few thousand men during one-fifth of the history of our country, is proudly, but not haughtily, displayed by the 361st Infantry in such ways as:

The Regimental Colors with its seven streamers.

The Battalion Guidons with their Distinguished Unit Citation streamers (*2d and 3rd Battalions*).

The watchword: "361st Leads - Others Follow."

The nickname "Skookum," honoring the spirit of the Northwest Indians.

"Miller Field," the athletic field of the Regiment, named in honor of Major Oscar F. Miller (*San Jose, Calif.*), Commanding Officer of 3rd Battalion in the Meuse-Argonne, 1918, and for whom the "Miller Hills" in France were named. Posthumously awarded the Nation's highest decoration, the Congressional Medal of Honor, he became the only member of this Regiment so honored as of this date.

These methods of display are based upon the official lineage and regimental records which are herein extracted and consolidated for general use as follows:

COAT OF ARMS

Shield: Argent, a patriarchal cross, botonny azure, between, in fess debased, an oak tree and a lion rampant, sable.

Crest: For all regiments and separate battalions of the Army Reserve: On a wreath of the colors argent and azure, the Lexington Minute Man, Captain John Parker, facing the Common in Lexington, Massachusetts (*19 Apr 1775*).

OTHER INSIGNIA

Motto: Ducit Amor Patriae (*Led by Love of Country*).

Watchword: 361st Leads - Others Follow.

Nickname : The "Skookum" Regiment. Adopted from the Northwest Indians where the 361st was formed in 1917; it is translated as: on-the-ball, manly or good.

Distinctive

Insignia : The present insignia is the second such device in the history of the Regiment and was approved by the War Department's Quartermaster General on 8 March 1927. It consists of the shield and motto from the Coat of Arms of this Regiment. The shield is *argent (silver)* with charges depicting service in World War I. The patriarchal cross, *botonny azure, (botonny blue)* symbolizes the Province of Lorraine, France, where the Regiment first entered combat; the oak tree, *vert (green)*, the woods of the Meuse-Argonne, France; and the lion rampant, *sable (black)*, as found on the Coat of Arms of Belgium, for service in that country with the French Sixth Army in the Group of Armies, Flanders, commanded by the King of Belgium in the Ypres-Lys offensive of 1918.

Regimental

March : An important and integral part of any organization is its theme song. We, too, have our song — the 361st Infantry March, which is the well known tune "There's a Long, Long, Trail" arranged in march tempo. Few other units, excepting the Australian Army with their "Waltzing Mathilda," have ever had such a jaunty march.

Streamers : Infantry Combat Regiment Streamer.

Campaign

Streamers : World War I
Lorraine
Meuse-Argonne
Ypres-Lys
World War II
Rome-Arno
North Apennines
Po Valley

Decorations:

All companies of 2d Battalion were awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation, embroidered "Bologna, Italy," by authority of the President. All companies of 3rd Battalion were awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation, embroidered "Livergnano, Italy," by authority of the President.

Division

Citation : Company B, in G.O. 84, Hq 91st Div of 2 Jul 1945, under authority of AR 600-55, was commended for outstanding achievement in combat near Livergnano, Italy, between 11 and 14 Oct 1944.

Memorials: Fort William D. Davis, Canal Zone, Panama, named for the Commanding Officer, 361st Infantry Regiment, who was killed in action 1 Nov 1918, in Belgium.

361st Infantry Memorial to the dead of World War II at Livergnano, Italy.

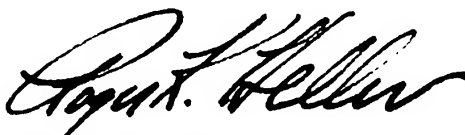
In 1955, this Nation celebrates the 180th birthday of the U.S. Army, and this Regiment, its 38th year of service. While ours is a comparatively new nation and a very young Regiment, it should be noted that the 361st Infantry has now existed for a period of time which covers more than one-fifth of the history of the United States since 1775.

In 1954, the United States Army carried 270 Infantry Regiments on its active and inactive rolls of the Regular Army, the Army Reserve, and the National Guard.

Of these 270 regiments, many of which are old militia units from the colonial period and regular units created at the birth of this Country, the 361st Infantry stands as the 132d oldest regiment and places 113th in number of campaigns and decorations. In our own Sixth Army, which covers eight Western States, the 361st stands 23rd out of 31 regiments in the matter of age, and 11th out of 23 in the matter of campaigns. When compared only with the twenty-two much older National Guard and other reserve regiments in Sixth Army, the 361st Infantry is 4th in the number of campaigns, a very great achievement for any military organization.

As the author of this booklet, I alone must take the responsibility for what has been included and how it has been interpreted. The entire project, however, would have been impossible without the help of many persons including Master Sergeant Charles H. McAdams, Assistant Adjutant and S 1, who carried the administrative load of this section throughout the period of this project; Mr. Peter M. Buzanski, who read and corrected the manuscript; and Captain John A. Reese Jr., the Unit Advisor, whose kindness made the project a reality.

In turning these pages, we trust that you will learn the history and traditions of the 361st Infantry so that you, who now have its reputation in your keeping, may carry on the high ideals of duty, loyalty, determination and steadfast courage which have characterized the "Skookum" Regiment.



ROGER K. HELLER
Capt Inf - USAR
Adjutant

361st Inf Reg, USAR
Oakland Army Base
3 April 1955

Documents Dept.

THE THREE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FIRST INFANTRY

WORLD WAR I

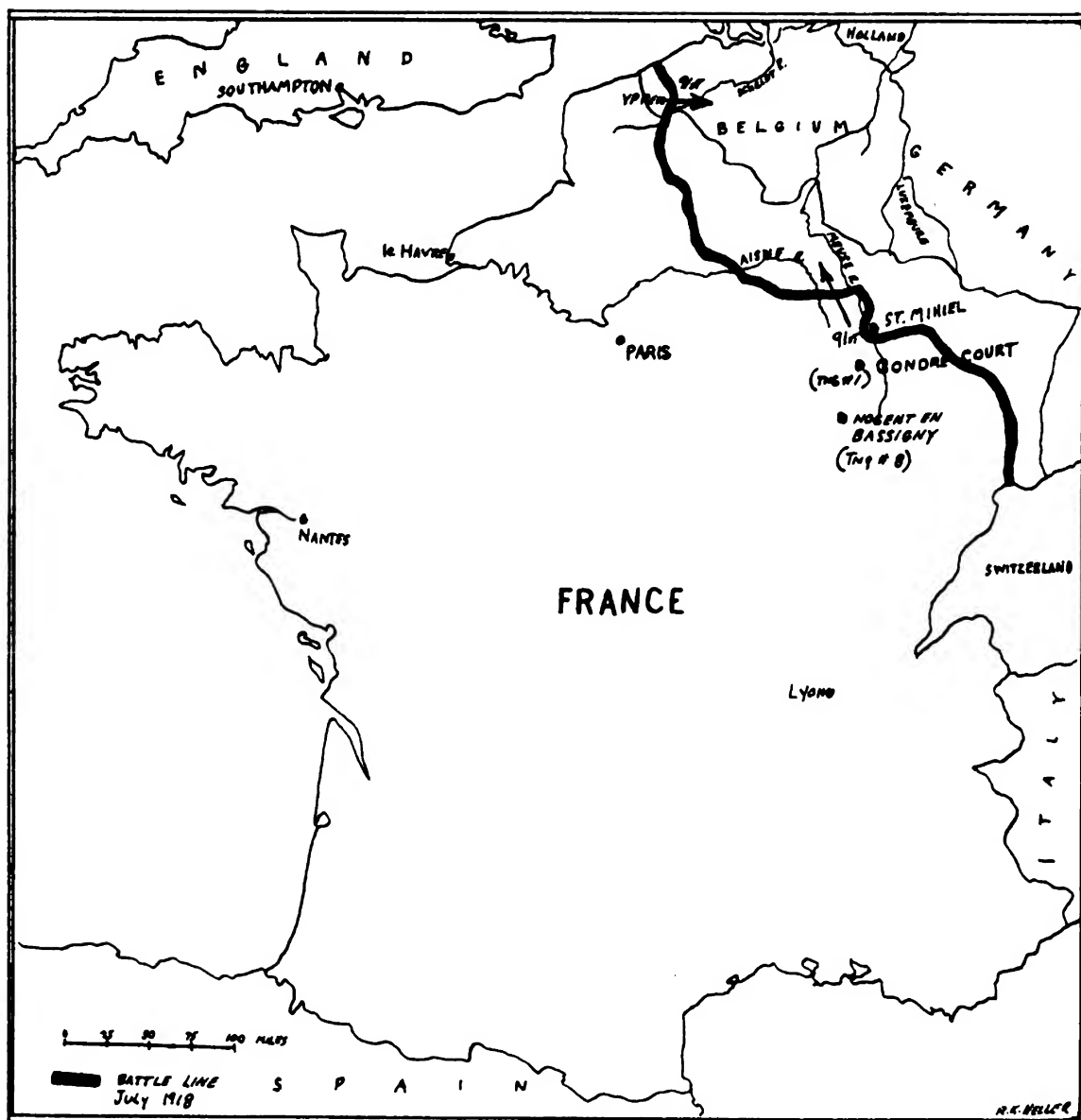
When the United States entered World War I on 6 Apr 1917, all existing state-side units of the very small regular Army were contained in three "Provisional Infantry Divisions." Faced with an unprecedented mobilization and training task, the War Department immediately called all National Guard Divisions to active service renumbering them between 26 and 75 (*actually they only used the numbers between 26 and 42*). Then, to obtain the millions of men and the many divisions needed for such a war, the Selective Service Law was enacted. Under the provisions of this law, the Nation was divided into sixteen draft areas; each was to provide one National Army Division in the first quota, which was numbered from 76 to 91.

The 16th Draft Area (*California, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Utah, and Alaska*) furnished the men for the 91st Division, the "Wild West Division," which was formed at Camp (*now Fort*) Lewis, Washington, on 5 Aug 1917.

The 361st Infantry Regiment, which was to be a part of the 91st Division's 181st Infantry Brigade, was organized under authority of GO 9 Hq 91st Div., on 6 Sep 1917, by Colonel William D. Davis at Camp Lewis. The first enlisted men of the Regiment, some 150 strong, were draftees from Seattle. They came to camp accompanied by their city officials, the city band, and with a martial spirit typical of the intense patriotism of early America and similar to that of their forefathers in the First Washington Infantry of Civil War Service, a forerunner of the new 361st Infantry Regiment. Colonel Davis assigned these men to "H" Company, the first company of the Regiment to have enlisted men. Inasmuch as these were the first men and the 361st, the first unit one encountered upon entering the gate of the post, Colonel Davis coined the watchword: "361st Leads - Others Follow," had it painted on a large sign, and hung it so all other elements of the division could observe and follow--something they have been doing ever since.

A few days later, on 12 Sep 1917, a cadre of three Regular Army NCO's per company arrived and a fifteen-day training program was instituted to whip the 150-man regiment into a training cadre which, in turn, had to train some 3000 completely "green" civilians. Late in September, the Regiment was brought to full strength, largely with men from the State of Washington, and began its regular training cycle under the watchful eyes of instructors who had just completed 15 days' training. It was really a case of recruits training "raw" civilians. Without uniforms, armed at first with the Spanish-American War Krag-Jorgensen Rifle, and then with the modified British M-1917 Enfield Rifle, the men worked hard at mastering the problems of the School of the Soldier and Trench Warfare. During this period when new men were still arriving, the "old men" of a few weeks, on spotting a group detraining, set up the shout "Where'-er you from?" and the recruits from Montana roared back "Powder River - Let'er Buck." This Montana reply gained in popularity to a point where it became the entire Division's battle cry throughout World War I. It became so famous that in World War II, the 91st was known unofficially as the "Powder River Division"--another "first" had begun in the 361st Infantry.

After some two months of training, the 91st Division was stripped of over 8,000 men to serve as fillers for the 4th, 40th, and 41st Divisions, which were leaving for overseas. So, once again, with a new group of civilians, the units of the Division began to prepare. At that time, in the spring of 1918, the subject schedule stressed open warfare, tactical walks, compass problems, and large unit man-



FRANCE AND BELGIUM 1918

euvers. It was during this later period that Colonel Davis established the 361st Infantry March, which is, perhaps, better known as the civilian tune "There's a Long, Long, Trail," played in march tempo; he also introduced the custom that all officers would wear white collars after retreat. On the sports front, the 361st was also doing well, winning the 91st Division Field Meet, capturing both the amateur and professional company and regimental boxing championships of the Division while never losing a bout. Many members of the Regiment were also placed on the Division football, soccer, basketball, and baseball teams.

Having completed seven months of training, the 361st Infantry, as a part of the 91st Division, left Camp Lewis on 22 Jun 1918 for the Port of Embarkation, Camp Merritt, New Jersey, on eight separate trains. On the night of 4-5 Jul 1918 they marched seven miles with all gear and barrack bags to the wharf, where they boarded the British ships "Koroa" (*Regt Hq and 1st Bn*) and "Scotian" (*2d and 3rd Bns*), the latter being nicknamed by the men as "The Good Ship Marmalade," a name she certainly lived up to.

After an eleven-day crossing, the Regiment landed at Glasgow, Scotland, on 18 Jul 1918, with the band playing the 361st Infantry March, (*which was repeated on every occasion in Glasgow, Southampton*) and then at Le Havre, France, where the 361st arrived after a short ferry ride on 20 Jul 1918, less than four months before the end of the war.

The 361st then moved by rail to Training Area No. 8, Divisional Training Areas American Expeditionary Forces, at Nogent-en-Bassigny, some 40 miles from the front, where it began intensive work in offensive combat tactics for small units. On 6 Sep 1918, the Regiment was shifted to Training Area No. 1 near Gondrecourt, immediately behind the battle front and continued preparations. At this time, the 91st Division, perhaps catching the spirit of the 361st, adopted a new hand salute, known as the "canteen" or "beer bottle" salute. When saluting, the Division required all officers and men to hold their head at the same angle as when drinking a bottle of beer or from a canteen and then render the salute with the head at this cocky angle. This was certainly an innovation in the otherwise strictly conservative and G.I. United States First Army commanded by General Pershing, but it was very satisfying to the spirit of the men in the "Wild West Division."

While advanced training was in progress, the American High Command was involved in planning the first offensive to be made by an American Army in World War I, the objective being the elimination of St. Mihiel Salient. It seemed clear to First Army staff that a larger number of divisions would be needed to maintain the momentum of the offensive than were then ready and combat-tested. The staff quickly realized that if the attack bogged down, casualties would become unbearably high and the effort wasted. So, it was decided to commit four new inexperienced divisions, including the 91st, in a supporting role. This was done with the knowledge that casualties in the partially equipped 91st Division might be higher than normal, but that its addition would help keep the attack rolling and thus reduce the over-all losses of First Army.

The 361st Infantry, now code-named "Mamma," and hindered by almost continuous rain, moved out in a series of night marches from Training Area No. 1 to Vacon. In the vicinity of this town, the 91st Division was in a position to support either the United States IV Corps or the French Colonial Corps in the U.S. First Army Area. The St. Mihiel offensive opened on 12 Sep 1918 and was completed in two days as the German front collapsed. So swift was the victory, the First Army's casualties remained remarkably low and the 91st Division was not even called upon to leave its support positions. Four days later, the Regiment marched to the Forest of Hesse in the III Corps Area and there came under shell fire for the first

time as it passed through the junction at Parois. On the next day, the 361st relieved elements of the French 73rd Infantry Division in the Aubreville Sector, even though the French maintained a light screen along the front to prevent German intelligence from learning of the arrival of the U.S. First Army in this sector. For these activities from 11 to 20 Sep 1918, the 361st Infantry was awarded the Campaign Streamer "Lorraine" (based on GO 238, G.H.Q.A.E.F. 26 Dec 1918) and the Regiment had a blue Patriarchal Cross of Lorraine placed upon its Coat of Arms.

The Aubreville Sector was then merged by Army orders into the new Meuse-Argonne Sector and six days later, on 26 Sep 1918, the still partially unequipped 91st Division, as a part of V Corps, was one of the twenty-one U.S. divisions which launched the great Meuse-Argonne offensive. The "Wild West Division", coded as Division "G" of Center Corps, was given the left of the Corps front, the 181st Infantry Brigade, the right flank of 91st Division; and 361st Infantry, the left flank of the Brigade. The key to this entire part of the front was Montfaucon and First Army realized that it would be a very difficult objective to capture. General Pershing planned to drive deep salients into the German lines on each side of that stronghold and then, by threatening its rear, force the retirement of the garrison. The V Corps, whose zone of action included Montfaucon near its eastern boundary, was to drive vigorously forward to the left of that place. Without waiting for adjacent corps, it was to penetrate the German third position near Romagne, thus turning Montfaucon from the west. The 91st Division was given the left flank of the V Corps drive, the furthest west of the Corp's units, and, thus, was expected to effect a deep penetration to force the German withdrawal. The 361st Infantry was given five immediate objectives in the first phase of this drive, including three woods, one sharp ridge, and the town of Epinonville, some eight miles from the line of departure, and held by elements of the crack 1st Guard Division of the Third German Army.

Major Oscar F. Miller, Commander of the 3rd Battalion, 361st Infantry was the Senior Major in the Regiment and, on this basis, his request that the 3rd Battalion lead the first offensive was granted. On the night of 25 Sep 1918, just six weeks before the end of the war, the 3rd Battalion occupied the kilometer of the front assigned to the 361st Infantry with "M" Company taking the left flank, "L" Company the right flank, "K" Company in support on the left, "I" Company in support on the right, and the entire 1st Battalion some 600 meters in the rear. Thus the four rifle companies of 3rd Battalion, supported by the 347th Machine Gun Battalion, were poised for the great offensive. *(In World War I each battalion had four rifle companies. Support was furnished by the Regimental Machine Gun Company and the Machine Gun Battalion of the Brigade).*

Moving out in pitch dark, the Pioneer Platoon of 3rd Battalion Headquarters quickly cut new lanes through the French wire system. At 2330 hours the six-hour artillery barrage of 2,700 guns began and at 0530 hours on 26 Sep 1918, the 3rd Battalion jumped off, as did the 3rd Battalion, 362d Infantry on their right, with the shout of "Powder River - Powder River." The dense fog during the morning, the network of wire, myriads of shell craters, deep ravines, and thick woods presented great difficulties, but Companies "M" and "L" pushed on rapidly, arriving at the other side of the Bois de Cheppy by 1030 hours.

The German 1st Guard Division had pulled back as best as it could from trenches which had been torn apart by the tremendous artillery barrage. As the 3rd Battalion passed this first line of resistance, German machine gunners and snipers slowed down the advance. Unfortunately, the rolling barrage had been set at the established pace of 25 yards per minute and it was soon falling far in the enemy rear while the troops were still struggling forward over and through this very diffi-

cult terrain. This situation could not be corrected because of the lack of adequate communication equipment within the Division. Nevertheless, pressure from the enemy was still slight enough to permit the 3rd Battalion to stop and eat a ration for lunch.

The Battalion then cleaned out the Bois Chehemin and advanced to the crest of Hill 252 and the orchards south of Epinonville before dark. Both the 3rd and 1st Battalions, following what was then tactical doctrine in the U.S. Army, posted the area and pulled the bulk of their troops back to better defensive positions for the night, as a cold, drizzling rain fell on the battlefield. The first day had been a success; no German counter attack had developed; and the First Army termed the work of the 91st Division as "a splendid advance to the west."

The 27th of September arose in a cold, drizzling rain, which was to last throughout the day. The 1st Battalion was now assigned the mission of resuming the 361st Infantry attack on Epinonville and passed through 3rd Battalion with "A" Company on the left, "C" Company on the right, "B" Company in support behind "A", and "D" Company in support of "C" Company. The Germans had recovered their poise and immediately placed both flanks of the 1st Battalion under machine gun fire. On the right flank, elements of the German 117th Infantry Division and the 5th Bavarian Reserve Division could pour in observed fire from the heights around Montfaucon, while the 1st Guard Division still held strong positions immediately to the front, and filtered snipers and machine gun teams into nearby orchards and hedges.

Major George W. Farwell, the Battalion Commander, sent "B" Company on a flanking movement to the left in an attempt to dislodge the Germans. This effort failed, so he ordered the battalion to withdraw a short distance to permit artillery to work the area over and drive the enemy from the hedges and orchards. Unfortunately the barrage dropped short. It fell on the Regiment, causing a further withdrawal by the badly shaken troops. This action, along with a slight mix-up in directions by 182d Infantry Brigade, created a gap in the 91st Division front, so 2d Battalion, 361st Infantry was released from division reserve and inserted between the left of 1st Battalion, 361st Infantry, and the right flank of the 364th Infantry. With "E" Company on the left, "F" Company on the right, "H" Company in support of the left, and "G" Company in support on the right, the 2d Battalion set out to envelope Epinonville from the left (*West*).

Apparently there arose a misunderstanding as to which town was the objective and the battalion pushed steadily on to the northwest in a sharp drive capturing Eclisfontaine about a mile to the front and two or three hundred yards to the west of the Regimental sector. This relieved pressure on the left flank but failed completely to accomplish the mission of securing Epinonville. 1st Battalion was now, however, able to advance and, with Companies "A" and "C" leading it, pushed through the orchards, occupied the town of Epinonville, and substantially cleared out the enemy. At dusk the 1st and 2d Battalions were pulled back to the rear, while the 3rd Battalion passed through and occupied Epinonville Hill. The 361st Infantry had gained a good mile during the day against heavy machine gun fire.

Now the bulk of the troops were moved to the rear, both to get away from the extremely accurate German artillery fire, which was controlled by low flying aircraft, and to permit U. S. First Army artillery to hammer the immediate front. The V Corps, also had ordered the withdrawal, because the right flank of the 91st Division had become unprotected by the inability of the 37th Division to keep pace with the "Wild West" men.

On the third day of the offensive, 361st Infantry relieved the 362d and, thus, the Regiment held the entire 181st Infantry Brigade front. With the 2d Battalion on

Diagram illustrating the conversion of 1 mile to kilometers and yards:

- 1 mile = 1,609.344 KILOS
- 1 mile = 1,609.344 YARDS

ZONE OF ACTION
91ST DIVISION
AËCONNE - MEUSE
OFFENSIVE
SEPT. 26th - OCT. 11th 1918.

TOPO SECTION C-2

Scale: 0 to 3 KILOMETERS / 0 to 3 MILES / 0 to 3000 YARDS

Map details include:
 - **Locations:** Sommerance, Exermont, Bouilly, Montblainville, Varennes, Cheppy, Vouquois, Boureuilles, Ailleux Farm, Bertrange Farm, Hill 290, Hill 269, Hill 253, Hill 255, Hill 256, Hill 257, Hill 258, Hill 259, Hill 260, Hill 261, Hill 262, Hill 263, Hill 264, Hill 265, Hill 266, Hill 267, Hill 268, Hill 269, Hill 270, Hill 271, Hill 272, Hill 273, Hill 274, Hill 275, Hill 276, Hill 277, Hill 278, Hill 279, Hill 280, Hill 281, Hill 282, Hill 283, Hill 284, Hill 285, Hill 286, Hill 287, Hill 288, Hill 289, Hill 290.
 - **Geographical Features:** AËconne River, Meuse River, front line.
 - **Infrastructure:** Roads, railways, bridges.
 - **Other Labels:** Bois de Gesnes, Bois de Moncy, Bois de Cierges, Bois de Emont, Bois de Beuge, Bois de Cheppy, Bois de Vouquois, Bois de Ailleux, Bois de Bertrange, Bois de Hill 290, Bois de Hill 269, Bois de Hill 253, Bois de Hill 255, Bois de Hill 256, Bois de Hill 257, Bois de Hill 258, Bois de Hill 259, Bois de Hill 260, Bois de Hill 261, Bois de Hill 262, Bois de Hill 263, Bois de Hill 264, Bois de Hill 265, Bois de Hill 266, Bois de Hill 267, Bois de Hill 268, Bois de Hill 269, Bois de Hill 270, Bois de Hill 271, Bois de Hill 272, Bois de Hill 273, Bois de Hill 274, Bois de Hill 275, Bois de Hill 276, Bois de Hill 277, Bois de Hill 278, Bois de Hill 279, Bois de Hill 280, Bois de Hill 281, Bois de Hill 282, Bois de Hill 283, Bois de Hill 284, Bois de Hill 285, Bois de Hill 286, Bois de Hill 287, Bois de Hill 288, Bois de Hill 289, Bois de Hill 290.

the left, with "E" and "F" Companies on line, and the 3rd Battalion on the right, with "I" and "M" Companies on line, the assault was renewed. The 2d Battalion attacked towards Eclisfontaine over ground taken and surrendered the day before, while the 3rd Battalion again swept through Epinonville and continued to drive for the distant high ground. In this exploiting phase of the attack, the 3rd Battalion drifted to the left across the front of the 2d Battalion, thus pinching out the latter unit, and leaving the right sector of the regimental front unmanned. Colonel Davis quickly moved the 1st Battalion into this void and continued the general attack with the 3rd Battalion on the left, 1st Battalion on the right, and 2d Battalion in reserve. The two assault battalions now met strong resistance near Les Epinettes Bois and Bois de Cierges, yet by dusk the 1st Battalion had reached the northern edge of the latter woods.

The 3rd Battalion had gone through a hard day, the troops were dog-tired, and Major Miller collapsed from sheer exhaustion, but the objective had not been reached. Major Miller, after being revived, halted his battalion at the northern edge of Les Epinettes, reorganized them, and then with grim determination renewed the attack with "I" and "M" still in the lead and jumping off with the "Powder River" battle cry. As the 3rd Battalion passed by the first ridge close to the 1st Battalion, "B" "C", and "D" Companies arose without orders and joined the attack, extending the battalion front and almost doubling the unit. This reinforced battalion drove down into a gulch and then up a 400-yard slope against a determined enemy resistance.

Under heavy fire, the line wavered and, just before it broke, Major Miller inserted the 3rd Battalion Headquarters between the line companies leading the attack. The Major was hit in the arm and leg but kept on advancing as he directed 3rd Battalion west of what was to become known as "Miller Hill." Then, as they gained this key to "100 hour hill," which crossed the entire brigade front, the Major was hit in the stomach and went down to stay, but still waving the men on in the attack.

The determined unit pushed on to the objective at great cost. The battalion had been cut to pieces, Major Miller was dying, all captains were either killed or wounded, and a 1st Lieutenant was in command. A virtual hurricane of artillery and machine gun fire had more than halved the unit, killing 100 men in the first 300 yards of the assault--but they had not failed. As night closed in on the 28th of September heavy rain and constant German artillery fire fell on the battered 3rd, as the 2d Battalion moved in to cover the area. A few hours later, at 0230 hours on 29 Sept 1918, the 362d Infantry took over the 181st Brigade front from a very tired 361st Infantry, which now reverted to brigade reserve.

While the 28th had been extremely hard on the 3rd Battalion and elements of the 1st Battalion, 361st Infantry, the 29th of September was to be one of the grimmest days for the entire 91st Division. The V Corps ordered an attack by all its divisions to take place before 0700 hours. Paragraph 2 of the Attack Order stated:

Divisions will advance independently of each other, pushing the attack with the utmost vigor and regardless of cost.

W. B. BURT
Chief of Staff

And so it was to be. The 362d Infantry was given the assault mission for the 181st Brigade with Companies "E," "F," "G," and one platoon of "K," 361st Infantry, to guard the right flank which still remained exposed by the 37th Division's inability to keep up with the 91st Division. The objective was the town of Gesnes some two miles away. The terrain in that direction was a flat tableland,

barren of cover, and an invitation to annihilation. Colonel Parker, Commander of the 362d Infantry, a veteran of San Juan Hill in the Spanish-American War and one of the Army's foremost weapons experts, took one look at the situation and then requested brigade headquarters to postpone the attack until he could reach the front and lead it in person.

At 0700 hours the assault crossed the line of departure but it was immediately halted by intense machine gun and direct artillery fire. A second attack at 1000 hours fared little better and met heavy fire from La Grande aux Bois Ferme. The 91st Division Commander, Major General William H. Johnston, ordered the 1st Battalion, 361st Infantry to take La Grande aux Bois Ferme, a mission it quickly accomplished, but not without numerous casualties, including the Battalion Commander, Major George W. Farwell, who died of his wounds.

With their flank now cleared by the 361st Infantry, the 362d attacked a third time at 1545 hours with a shout of "Powder River", and with the help of 2d Battalion, 361st Infantry took the town of Gesnes, and pushed on to the crest of Hill 255. Thus, by 1730 hours, the 362d had reached the First Army objective at a cost of over 100 killed and hundreds more wounded in the first 200 yards of the assault. Companies "E," and "F" of the 361st Infantry, which had covered the right flank, now took over the lead, gaining the heights beyond Gesnes and pushing patrols out as far as Hill 285.

A deep penetration had been made at high cost to the participating units. In four days, the 91st Division had reached the U.S. First Army objective by cracking the German first defensive line, two intermediate maneuver lines, and the second defensive line. Spearheading this 91st Division thrust, and setting the pace for all twenty-one divisions of the U.S. First Army, were the 361st and 362d Infantry Regiments of the 181st Infantry Brigade—they had succeeded beyond all normal expectations.

Soon after nightfall on this fateful 29th of September 1918, V Corps ordered the 91st Division to withdraw from all positions won during that day—the attack had been a mistake and the Corps had spent all day trying to reach the 91st Division to cancel the operation but the communications system had failed. The men of the 362d Infantry, which lost over 500 men in the assault and whose companies were down to from 18 to 75 men, felt that they had been thrown away in a new Charge of the Light Brigade. V Corps had decided to cancel the 91st Division's attack when it was seen that neither the 35th Division on the west nor the 37th Division on the east, could protect the "Wild West" flanks.

The soundness of this decision was soon apparent as the 74th Infantry Brigade, the 37th Division (*147th and 148th Infantry Regiments*) withdrew under heavy attack to Ivoir, exposing the entire right flank of the 91st Division; yet it was a difficult decision for a young "green" division to accept and involved a certain amount of incompetence at Corps Headquarters. In such a dark hour, the 2d Battalion, 361st Infantry took over the entire 181st Infantry Brigade front from the 362d, as that battered and broken Regiment was moved to the rear for reorganization. Soon a general withdrawal order went out to all of the division, but it never reached the 2d Battalion, which remained alone on the 91st Division sector of the front. In the early hours of the next morning and under cover of a heavy mist, the 2d Battalion, discovering it was alone against the German Army, arose and advanced to the rear to reestablish contact. It lost only one man as a prisoner during this incident.

The 361st Infantry now took over the entire brigade front in the new position and developed a defensive position, which it occupied between 30 Sep and 3 Oct 1918. The offensive was never resumed by the 91st Division in this sector, and while the Regiment held the area, Major Roy C. Ward, Commander of the 2d Battalion,

ion, went to the hospital. The only remaining field grade officer in the Regiment was Colonel Davis, the Commanding Officer, who had been shot in the hand but refused hospitalization.

At 0900 hours, 3 Oct 1918, the 181st Brigade was relieved by the 32d Division and marched to the rear, where the men were given two days of rest, during which time they were allowed to sleep until noon.

The 361st Infantry had gained eight and a quarter miles in four days of furious assault in the Meuse-Argonne at a cost of 906 casualties, which included 214 men who either were killed in action or died of wounds. The Regiment was hard hit; "M" Company was in the worst condition; only three companies were commanded by captains; and many men were sick. However, along with the battered 362d Infantry and the 347th Machine Gun Battalion, they had made the 181st Infantry Brigade one of the hardest hitting teams on the Western Front.

On 7 Oct 1918, the 91st Division Headquarters and the 182d Infantry Brigade (*363rd and 364th Infantry and 348th Machine Gun Battalion*) started for the deep rear and a rest. As the 181st Brigade got ready to follow, orders arrived sending it in the other direction--back to the front. After an 8 mile march in a driving cold rain, the 361st Infantry outposted under fire the Bois de Chenesec-Gesnes line as part of the 32d Division.

On 9 October, as part of the 1st Division, the 361st Infantry attacked towards Hills 255 and 269, gaining about half a mile. The U.S. First Army had assumed that the 64th Brigade of 32d Division had taken these hills and turned them over to the 181st Brigade. When that headquarters discovered that U.S. troops were still 500 yards short of these objectives, they ordered 181st Infantry Brigade to seize them and, thus, the brigade was in action once again. The 361st Infantry attacked over some of the same ground that part of the 2d Battalion and the 362d had covered on 29 Sep 1918. The 1st Battalion, with Companies "A" and "C" leading advanced on Hill 269, and while severely handled at the line of departure by German artillery, they were able to catch the enemy infantry in a deadly crossfire. The enemy was eliminated--the objective gained. The 3rd Battalion plus "F" Company attacked Hill 255 (*"F" had been on this hill on 29 September*), with "L" and "M" in the lead, and "I" Company in a flanking movement to the right. The men reached within 100 yards of the crest and then were stopped by heavy fire from an adjacent hill (288) which had not been eliminated by the 125th Infantry of the 32d Division.

The next day, 10 Oct 1918, with an effective strength in "I" Company of 32, "K" at 35, "L" at 35, "M" at 40, "F" at 65, and "H" with 85, the 361st Infantry resumed the assault on Hill 255 as the Germans began pulling out. This attack led to a general assault towards Bois de Moncy and La Cote Dame Marie, with the 1st and 32d Divisions pinching out the 181st Brigade, which was then relieved of attachment to 1st Division and started for the rear.

In the battle just concluded, the 1st Division and the 181st Infantry Brigade had been opposed by eight German Divisions, yet these two units managed to drive the enemy from the dominant heights in such an impressive manner that General John J. Pershing cited the 1st Division in General Orders No. 201 with some of the warmest words ever used by the Commander-in-Chief. The French Government extended decorations to all units of the division after the war, and while it apparently overlooked the then deactivated attached 181st Infantry Brigade, it was a job well done by the "Wild West" men--one which cost the 361st Infantry 85 men killed, 264 wounded, 1 man missing, and 1 man lost as a prisoner.

These two phases of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, as a part of the 91st, 32d, and 1st Divisions, cost the 361st Infantry a total of 1257 casualties in six days of

assault. Of this number, 299 were killed in action, 954 wounded, 2 missing, and 2 lost as prisoners. This, along with illness, seriously sapped the strength of the Regiment which had grimly earned the Meuse-Argonne Campaign Streamer (*based on GO 232 G.H.Q.A.E.F. 19 Dec 1918*) and which, in the future, would add a green Oak Tree to the Regiment's Coat of Arms to mark forever the valiant conduct of the 361st Infantry in this greatest American offensive of the war. After the war, an investigation into the use of the 91st Division and lectures on the subject by staff officers of the A.E.F., including Colonel George C. Marshall (*later General of the Army and Chief of Staff in World War II*), revealed that the 91st Division was not properly equipped but that its use was deemed essential to the success of the First Army mission.

A summary of these findings disclosed that:

1. The TO&E allowed 16 Browning automatic rifles per company, but none was on hand, so the unit was equipped with worn out French Chauchat automatic rifles.
2. Rifle grenades were not available.
3. The TO&E authorized 6 Stokes mortars per regiment. A platoon had been trained in their use but, neither at the time of the Meuse-Argonne offensive, nor later in Belgium, were any of these mortars available for units of the 91st Division.
4. Signal equipment, heliographs, telephones, radios, rockets, and flares were in short supply.
5. The Pioneer Platoon, which was supposed to serve in the role of combat engineers, had no equipment beyond their combat shovels.
6. Rolling kitchens were in short supply.
7. Compasses, pistols for shooting flares, artillery signals, flashlights, range finders etc., were lacking.

As it is so well stated in the History of the 362d Infantry: "The division was sadly lacking in transportation. There were not enough trucks for the work and the lack of ambulances later caused needless loss of many lives. Then, and later, there was considerable bitterness over the sending into conflict an outfit without the necessary tools."

It must be stated on the positive side that the 361st had plenty of M-1917 Enfield Rifles, bayonets, ammunition, and excellent support from the 347th Machine Gun Battalion and, with these basic Infantry tools, accomplished a great job the hard way. It must also be admitted that the Nation was unable to fully equip her men on the Western Front and men paid dearly for that unpreparedness.

The 181st Infantry Brigade next began moving out for Belgium on 12 Oct 1918 to rejoin the 91st Division. In five days the 361st Infantry covered some 44 miles by marching, even though many officers and men were leaning on heavy canes as they plodded up and down the long hills. This march severely tried the Regiment but the task was overcome as they reached Mussey, France, where they entrained for St. Jean, Belgium, some 375 miles away.

At St. Jean replacements brought the Regiment up to about fifty percent strength with 65 officers and 1900 enlisted men being present for duty (*full strength would have been 114 officers and 3,800 men*). The 361st had detrained in the area of No Man's Land of Flanders; thus, there was little to cheer the men. There was also nothing to do.

Thirty miles to the west, the U. S. II Corps (*27th and 30th Divisions*) had cracked the famed Hindenburg Line. As part of the new moves against Germany, the 91st Division was assigned to the French 7th Corps, French 6th Army, French Army of Belgium, Group of Armies Flanders, commanded by the King of Belgium,

and for artillery was given the U. S. 53rd Field Artillery Brigade from the 28th Division (*Pennsylvania National Guard*).

On 20 Oct 1918, the Regiment gained some new 2d Lieutenants and 300 men from the 84th Division (*Ohio*) which A.E.F. Headquarters was using as a replacement division. Training started all over again with one major subject--open warfare. To herald the event, the 361st Infantry was given the new code name of "Regatta." Twelve days before the end of the war, on 31 Oct 1918, the Regiment, which had been moved to Driesela, reentered combat as the 7th French Corps passed over to the offensive against the German 207th Infantry Division and the 49th Reserve Division in the Ypres-Lys offensive in Belgium.

The attack in the 181st Brigade sector on 31 October was led by the 362d Infantry which attempted to clear out Spitaals Bosschen. The 361st Infantry spent this day in the field in much the same manner as if lolling in reserve on a summer maneuver. The next day, 1 Nov 1918, was different, however, as the 361st passed through the 362d in a column of battalions and then deployed on a four company front of "L," "K," "G," and "E" (*from left to right*), attacking straight ahead at a rapid pace. The 2d Battalion quickly took Wortegem, while patrols of "H" Company and patrols from all companies of 3rd Battalion forced their way into Audenarde, a city of over 7,000 people and a favorite fording site on the Scheldt River since the days of Julius Caesar.

Colonel Davis soon found that his regiment had advanced 12 miles, so he used his staff car to move forward and visit the reserve battalion (*1st Battalion*) with headquarters at Mooregem. He was observed by enemy artillery spotters and as he stepped from his staff car, three shells hit the area killing Colonel Davis (*CO 361st*), Captain Hughes (*CO 1st Bn*), and the battalion runner.

Colonel Avery D. Cummings took over the 361st Infantry on the same day (*1 Nov 1918*) and 1st Lieutenant Gustave B. Appelman became the commander of 1st Battalion. Meanwhile, the offensive continued with a patrol of "L" Company reaching the civic center of Audenarde, where the people went wild celebrating, even though the Germans continued shelling the suburbs. During this period of combat, an interesting German document was captured which contained the following paragraph: "Opposite our sector lies the 91st American Division. For each prisoner brought in, division will give 18 days extra leave - Von Below". Our reputation had spread.

On 4 Nov 1918, the 361st Infantry was scheduled for a major attack but was relieved by elements of the French 41st Division before H hour and went into reserve. The offensive in Belgium had cost the Regiment an additional 41 killed in action, 140 wounded, a total of 181 men, including the commanding officer.

On 9 Nov 1918, a new field order called for the 361st Infantry to make an assault across the Scheldt River but the Germans pulled out in full retreat and the 362d Infantry was given the mission of pursuing the enemy while the 361st protected the bridges from its assault positions.

The Regiment was still carrying out this mission when the Armistice went into effect 11 Nov 1918, which ended the shooting part of the war. For these actions, the Regiment was awarded the Ypres-Lys Campaign Streamer (*based on GO No. 31 Hq French 6th Army 11 Dec 1918*) and added the Belgian Lion to the Coat of Arms.

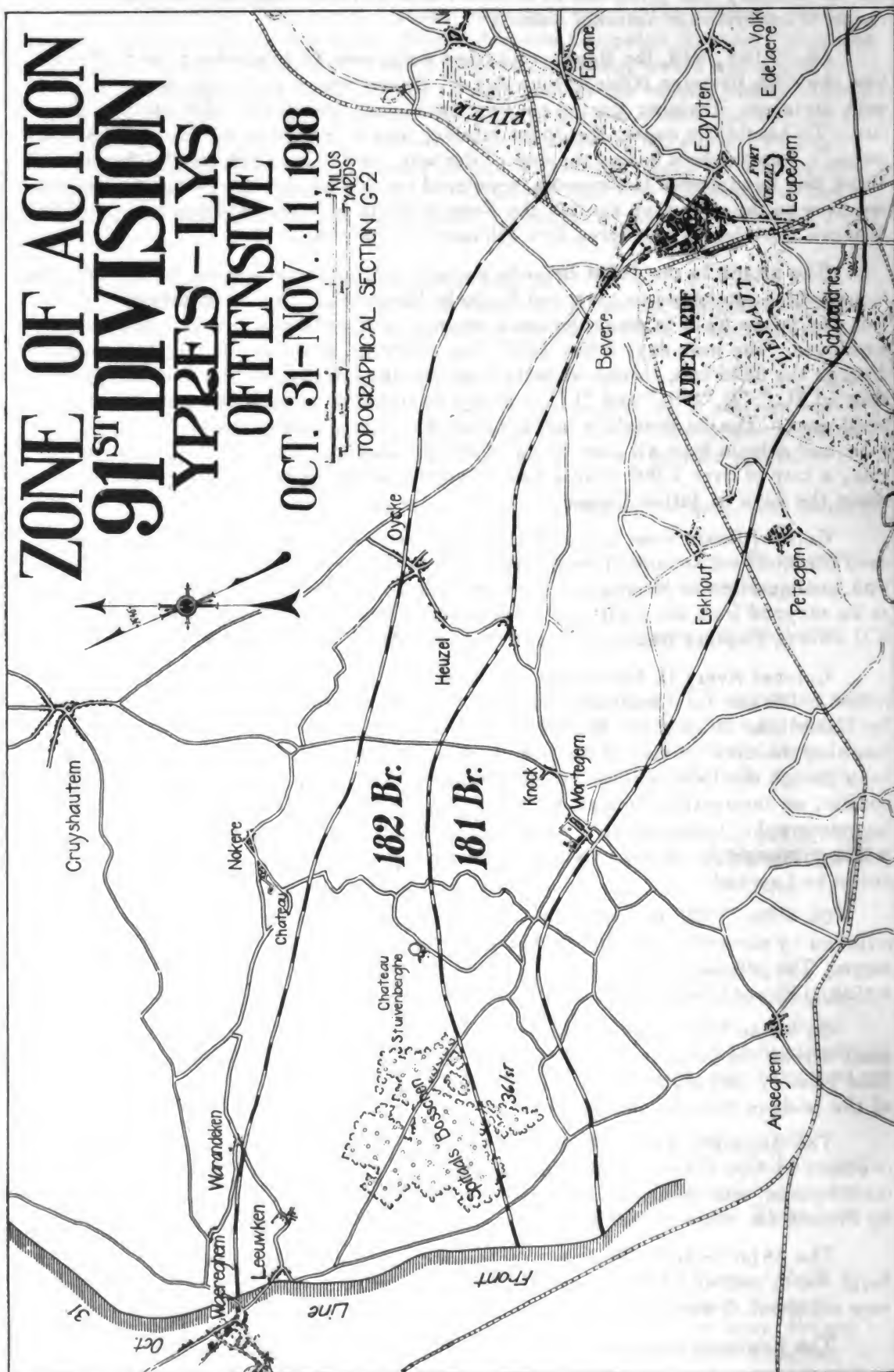
The 361st Infantry Regiment had seen nine days of offensive combat in World War I, suffered 1438 casualties of which 340 were killed in action, 1094 were wounded, 2 were missing, and 2 had been captured by the Germans.

The Regiment remained for some time in the vicinity of Audenarde, Belgium.

ZONE OF ACTION **91ST DIVISION** YPRES-LYS OFFENSIVE

OCT. 31-NOV. 11, 1918

1 KILOS
 1 YARDS
 TOPOGRAPHICAL SECTION G-2



holding parades for visiting general officers, conducting marches through the pleasant Belgian countryside, and joining in the Army-wide activities of sports and shows. At this time the distinctive division patches, which have identified U. S. divisions ever since, came into practice with the A.E.F. The 91st Division adopted the Green Fir Tree "based on the foliage of the states the division was formed from. . ." (*GO 57 Hq 91st Div 13 Dec 1918*).

The 361st took the Cross of Lorraine, the Oak Tree, and the Belgian Lion and placed them in gleaming white upon a green fir tree as the Distinctive Insignia of the Regiment. While in Belgium, the Regiment received the four light blue ribbons which were issued as campaign streamers by G.H.Q.A.E.F. These temporary streamers were later standardized by the War Department into the three streamers cited in the above text and now carried by this Regiment.

The 361st Infantry returned to France for the long return voyage home, arriving back at Camp Lewis, Washington, on 26 Apr 1919. The 361st paraded in Spokane, Seattle, and Tacoma, Washington before deactivation at Camp Lewis on 30 Apr 1919, and the presentation of her colors to the State of Washington for placement in the Capitol building at Olympia.

The 361st Infantry Regiment had seen 600 days of exacting service, had changed from a National Army unit into a Regiment of the United States Army, and was now passing onto the inactive rolls of that Army, a proud Regiment which had always met the challenge of the 91st Division motto "Always Ready"—without fail.

ORGANIZED RESERVE CORPS

Two years later, on 24 Jun 1921, the 361st Infantry was reconstituted and allotted to the Organized Reserves, assigned to the 91st Division, 9th Corps Area, and organized with Headquarters at Sacramento, California, November 1921, under authority of SO 206 Hq 9th Corps Area, 2 Sep 1921. For the next twenty-one years, the primary mission of the Regiment was as a static unit which had administrative control over reserve officers living in Northern California.

WORLD WAR II

When the Japanese struck Pearl Harbor on 7 Dec 1941, the United States was in the process of rebuilding her Armed Forces from the dangerously low levels they had reached in the 1930's. In the two years between 1939 and 1941, the Regular Army had been increased from three to ten Infantry Divisions and, after the spectacular fall of France in 1940, the President called all eighteen National Guard Divisions to active duty, while Congress passed the first peacetime Selective Service Law in the history of this Nation.

The Army, on 7 Dec 1941, consisted of twenty-nine Infantry Divisions, two Cavalry Divisions, and five Armored Divisions, most of which were only partially equipped. With the huge volume of weapons, equipment, and material supplied to the Allied Nations, along with the shortage of training centers throughout the United States, the activation of the remaining divisions on the Army rolls was a slow process.

Eight months after the Japanese attack, on 15 Aug 1942, the 361st Infantry was ordered into active military service (*less personnel*) and organized as an element of the 91st Infantry Division at Camp White, Oregon. The 91st Infantry Division was the forty-first division called to service and, as it gathered its elements together in Oregon, it was a changed division. Now, after the 1940 triangularization of divisions, all such units were known by their dominant arm--hence it was now the 91st Infantry Division. Gone were the 181st and 182d Infantry Brigades, the 166th Field Artillery Brigade, the 364th Infantry Regiment, and the 346th, 347th, and 348th Machine Gun Battalions.

Even within the 361st Infantry some profound changes had taken place. The famous band was eliminated, rifle companies now had three rifle platoons and a weapons platoon, battalions received a headquarters company, a heavy weapons company, and retained three rifle companies. On the regimental level, the Supply Company was changed to Service Company; Headquarters Company received the double title of Headquarters and Headquarters Company; the Machine Gun Company was eliminated; and two new companies joined the famous unit: the Cannon Company and the Anti-Tank Company.

Five weeks prior to the activation date, Major General Charles H. Gerhardt had arrived at Camp White to supervise the organization and special training of the division cadre, including those men who were to form the 361st Infantry Regiment.

Officers for the cadre were selected by the War Department from existing units throughout the United States, while the enlisted men were largely drawn from the 1st Cavalry Division, then stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas. An elaborate reactivation ceremony was held at Camp White on 15 Aug 1942, before a crowd of several thousand civilians, when the 529 officers and 1,279 enlisted men, comprising the reactivated 91st Infantry Division, were presented their unit colors and listened to the roll call of World War I dead. For the 361st Infantry, this Honor Roll contained the names of 342 men (*11 officers, 331 enlisted men*). With this impressive ceremony completed, the history of the 361st Infantry in World War II began to unfold rapidly.

Training of the original cadre was conducted at a grueling pace under the broiling sun of Oregon's treeless Agate Desert, with a great deal of attention being concentrated on physical conditioning. At the end of the first week in September, with the Nation watching the hard-pressed 1st Marine Division stop the Japanese counter-attack on Guadalcanal, the 91st Infantry Division began its famous "91 mile march". Its purpose was to test the physical condition of the division and also a

practical method of giving instruction about marches and bivouacs. Shouldering full field equipment, the 361st ground out the epic "91 miles" over the rough roads and trails of the Cascade Mountains. The distance was covered in twenty-eight and three quarters hours of actual marching time. Many of the "old timers," still soft after only three weeks of reactivation, would gladly have given up the tradition of marching a mile for every numeral in the division's number or, at least, would have inverted the numeral to 19 if it were to become the basis of future division marches.

During October and November, 1942, some 12,000 recruits were furnished by the Army and draft boards, through reception centers, to the division at Camp White and, with a portion of these men, the 361st Infantry was brought up to full strength for the first time since World War I.

On 15 Nov 1942, with house-keeping details settled, the Regiment began the thirty-nine week, three phase, training program detailed by the War Department's Mobilization Training Program. It began with basic training which lasted until 15 Feb 1943. During this period of training, when allied operations in North Africa were filling the headlines of the world's newspapers, the 361st was battling the misty weather of Oregon. Conditions, at best, were wretched, with fog and almost constant rain, making life miserable and hampering firing on the ranges but, unknowingly, the inclement weather was aiding the unit in preparing for similar conditions to be encountered in Italy. Even though the weather had not changed much by 15 Feb 1943, the Regiment, having completed basic training, turned to the second thirteen-week phase of platoon and company tactics. This lasted until 13 May, when it entered the third phase, which consisted of battalion and regimental exercises at Potato Hill, Upper and Lower Tablerock, Iron Mountain, and in the Grants Pass area.

On 21 Jun 1943, the Regiment, as part of the division, moved out of Camp White, to the north and northeast, to participate in D Series maneuvers designed by the War Department to test combat readiness of World War II divisions. These tests were completed on 10 July, when all units returned to Camp White.

Four days later, on 14 Jul 1943, Major General William G. Livesay assumed command of the division, replacing General Gerhardt. The 91st then began a period of intensive training to correct errors and weaknesses revealed during the D Series maneuvers and to receive instruction in assaulting fortified areas and villages.

After seven weeks of this "corrective training" the division moved to the IV Corps Maneuver Area, arriving on 3 Sep 1943. The IV Corps, consisting of 91st, 96th, and 104th Infantry Divisions, along with corps troops and attachments, engaged in extensive maneuvers in a barren area which covers some 10,000 square miles, ranging from the hot shrubless desert of central Oregon to the lava formations of Deschutes National Park. These exercises saw the 361st Infantry operating in extremes of heat, cold, excessive dust, snow, rain and very difficult terrain, from which the Regiment emerged a physically hardened and well-trained combat unit, confident and ready for the next assignment.

The entire division then moved to Camp Adair, Oregon, where, arriving on 4 Nov 1943, it immediately began vigorous training to correct weaknesses revealed in the maneuvers and to maintain the high level of fitness achieved by all units of the division. Added incentive was supplied by the rumors that an alert for movement overseas was expected in the near future. This time the rumor was true.

The Commanding General of the III Corps, Major General John Millikin, directed the 91st Infantry Division on 20 Jan 1944 to "conduct immediate inspections, intensify training, complete firing, and expedite shortage lists at once" and to

"submit a personnel status report on or before 28 Jan 1944, showing the exact status of training." This warning order began a feverish bustle of packing, crating, servicing vehicles and weapons, and immunizations to meet the forty-day deadline for readiness.

Forty-eight days later, 8 Mar 1944, the division was ready. The advance detachment and staging area detail left Camp Adair on 14 March for Camp Patrick Henry, the Port of Embarkation for Hampton Roads, Virginia. The entire division arrived at the camp on 3 April and began last minute preparations for overseas movement. Prior to this date, the advance detail of four officers and six enlisted men sailed for Naples, Italy, and on the date that the remainder of the division arrived in camp, the 361st Infantry sailed from Hampton Roads bound for Italy.

The military situation in Italy caused the destination to be changed while the troops were at sea. The new destination was to be Oran in Algeria. The 361st arrived off the coast of Algeria on 18 Apr 1944, debarked at Mers-el-Kebir, the port of Oran, and moved by truck to the Mediterranean Base Section Staging Area near Fleurus.

Two days later the unit moved to bivouac near Port-aux-Poules. Here the 91st Infantry Division was assigned to the Seventh Army, commanded by General Alexander M. Patch, the former commander of the American Division and XIV Corps (*victors of the Battle for Guadalcanal*).

Under orders of General Patch, the division launched an intensive six weeks' amphibious training program at the Invasion Training Center, Port-aux-Poules, with the 65th Infantry Regiment (*Puerto Rican*), less one battalion, being attached for training. The 361st Infantry, under the command of Colonel Rudolph W. Broedlow, was the first unit to undertake this training. The 361st Regimental Combat Team was formed by adding to the unit the 916th Field Artillery Battalion, Company A of the 316th Engineer Battalion, and Company A of the 316th Medical Battalion.

Training lasted from 3 to 15 May, a period of twelve days, which was considered by the old timers as the Regiment's toughest single period of training. The men learned organization of boat teams, wire breaching, debarkation, and other aspects of amphibious invasion techniques. Battalion Landing Teams, the basic unit of amphibious warfare, practiced day and night landings on the beaches of Arzew Bay. After landing, the men pushed through heavily fortified beach defenses complete with barbed-wire entanglements, pillboxes and enemy tanks, had to climb mountainous terrain and learn to use naval gunfire support.

The military situation in Italy soon demanded the immediate use of a Regimental Combat Team, so the 361st was detached from the 91st Division and sent to the Fifth Army at Naples, Italy, while the remainder of the 91st Division continued advanced training in North Africa. The entire Regimental Combat Team was assembled on 21 May 1944 to hear General Livesay deliver a final address and to wish them well on their first combat mission. On the next day, the advance detail, vehicles, and heavy equipment sailed, and on 24 May the men followed aboard the British transport HMS Samaria. It arrived at Naples on 27 May and was immediately moved to the Peninsular Base Section Staging Area near Bagnoli, Italy.

On 31 May, the Regiment marched with full field packs from Bagnoli to the naval base at Nisidia, where it boarded LSTs bound for Anzio, arriving on that famous beach at 0930 hours, 1 Jun 1944. Death and destruction were to be seen everywhere as the men landed to the dull thunder of heavy artillery firing on the Alban Hills south of Rome. The Regiment was rushed to Tre Concelli, where on 2 June, General Mark W. Clark, Commanding General of the Fifth Army, welcomed

the men to Italy and his Army. Later, by order of the Fifth Army, the 361st was attached to the VI Corps and assigned to the 36th Infantry Division, the controversial and much discussed Texas National Guard unit. The 36th Division was in contact with the enemy on a ridge north of Velletri and, on the same night that the 361st arrived in the 36th Division area, it was moved to the north into the hills, and by midnight 2 Jun 1944, the entire Regiment was in position behind the 141st Infantry of the 36th Division. The eve of battle was at hand.

The 361st Infantry moved out at 0830 hours, 3 Jun 1944, following the 141st Infantry along the Via del Laghi, with the 2d Battalion, Cannon Company, and one platoon of Anti-Tank Company, in the lead. The 1st Battalion, with 3rd Battalion in reserve, followed. The mission of the 141st Infantry was to capture Marino and Mt. Crescenzo. As the Regiment followed the Texans on this mission, the first casualties of World War II occurred in the 361st as long range enemy artillery dropped in the area at about 0930 hours.

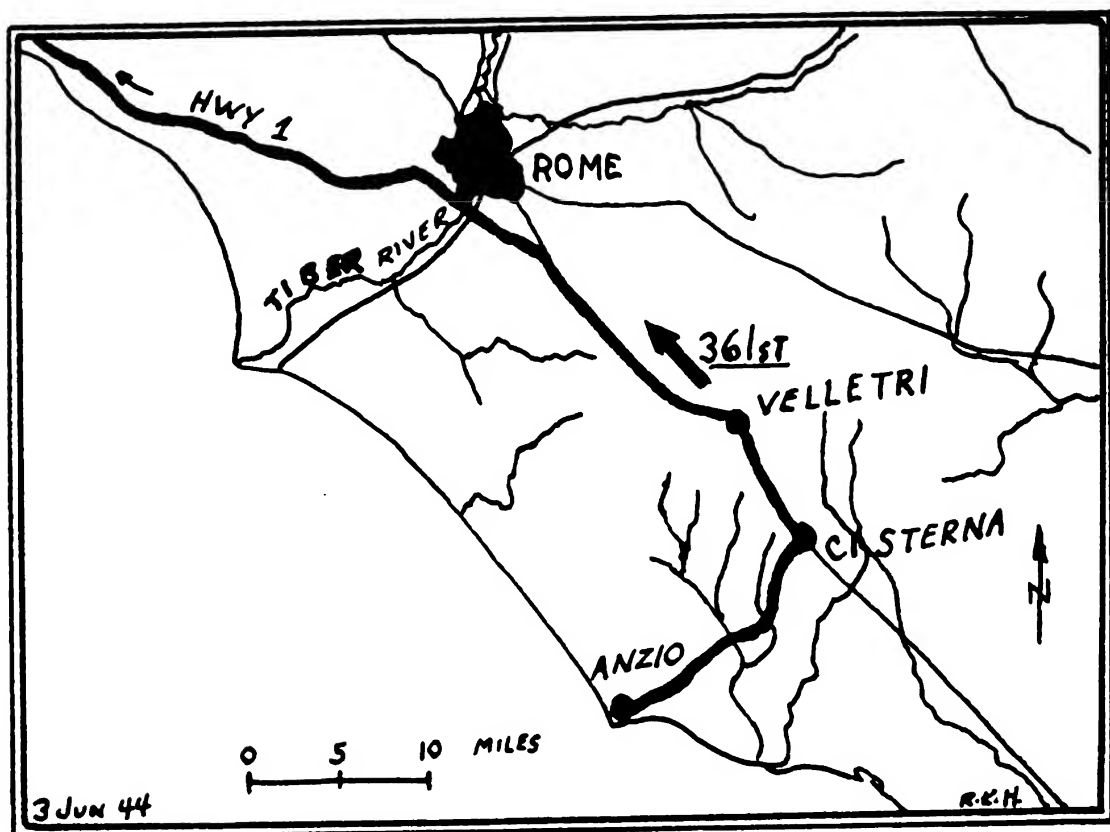
The 141st Infantry, suffering from heavy casualties and low morale, soon halted short of its objectives and at 1100 hours, the 36th Infantry Division ordered the 361st Infantry to relieve the 141st, and to resume the attack. The 2d Battalion passed through the stalled unit with "F" Company on the left, "E" Company on the right, and "G" Company in support. The two lead companies now advanced on a broad front and soon pushed into a wooded area. German resistance was determined and "F" Company absorbed heavy casualties, but the attack, supported by "G" Company moving around the left flank, cleared the enemy from the area. As night came, the majority of the German heavy artillery units on this front joined in hammering the hard pushing 361st Infantry. Under cover of this fierce bombardment, the enemy pulled out by crossing the famed Tiber River. The 361st had completed its first mission in an exemplary manner.

The Regiment now reverted to the VI Corps reserve and, as the Allied attack moved north of Rome, the 361st was attached to the 34th Infantry Division, thereby relieving the 133rd Infantry Regiment of that division as it moved along Highway No. 1.

The Corps then returned the 361st Infantry to the 36th Infantry Division to aid their drive along the coastal road. The 36th Division ordered the 361st to attack and capture Tarquinia. The Regiment jumped off 9 Jun 1944, with the 1st Battalion on the left, the 2d Battalion on the right, and the 3rd Battalion in reserve. Tarquinia fell after a smooth attack. This enabled the Regiment to push on down Highway No. 1.

On the next day, the 3rd Battalion led the drive with an assault on Nunxiatello. The Germans defended this place with the famed 88 mm gun, self-propelled artillery, and automatic weapons, which slowed the Battalion down to a walk. "I" Company was sent on a flanking movement to the right of the highway, only to have the enemy counter with a Mark IV tank supported by heavy fire from a concentration of automatic weapons. The 2d Battalion was then thrown into this battle to gain the high ground on the exposed flank of the 3rd Battalion. It then dug in along with the rest of the Regiment to hold the area until the entire unit was relieved by the 141st Infantry on the next day.

The energetic enemy then threw a strong counter-attack at the 141st Infantry and the 361st had to move back on the following day, 12 June, to relieve the weary Texans. The 361st Infantry, strongly supported by armor and artillery, then attacked the Germans across the rugged terrain east of Orbetello, driving them from the field and pushing on rapidly to the Albegna River, where the 143rd Infantry relieved the battling 361st.



ANZIO TO THE TIBER RIVER

The Regiment was now given a new mission of pushing inland and, thus, broadening the 36th Division front. In a rapid move, it reached the Ombrone River, opposite the town of Ponte D' Istia, only to find the bridges destroyed and the river unfordable. The 2d Battalion consolidated this position by occupying the high ground overlooking Ponte D' Istia. The 1st Battalion moved to the west along the river bank, while the 3rd Battalion went some 2 miles down stream to a dam where it was able to cross single file--the barrier had been breached.

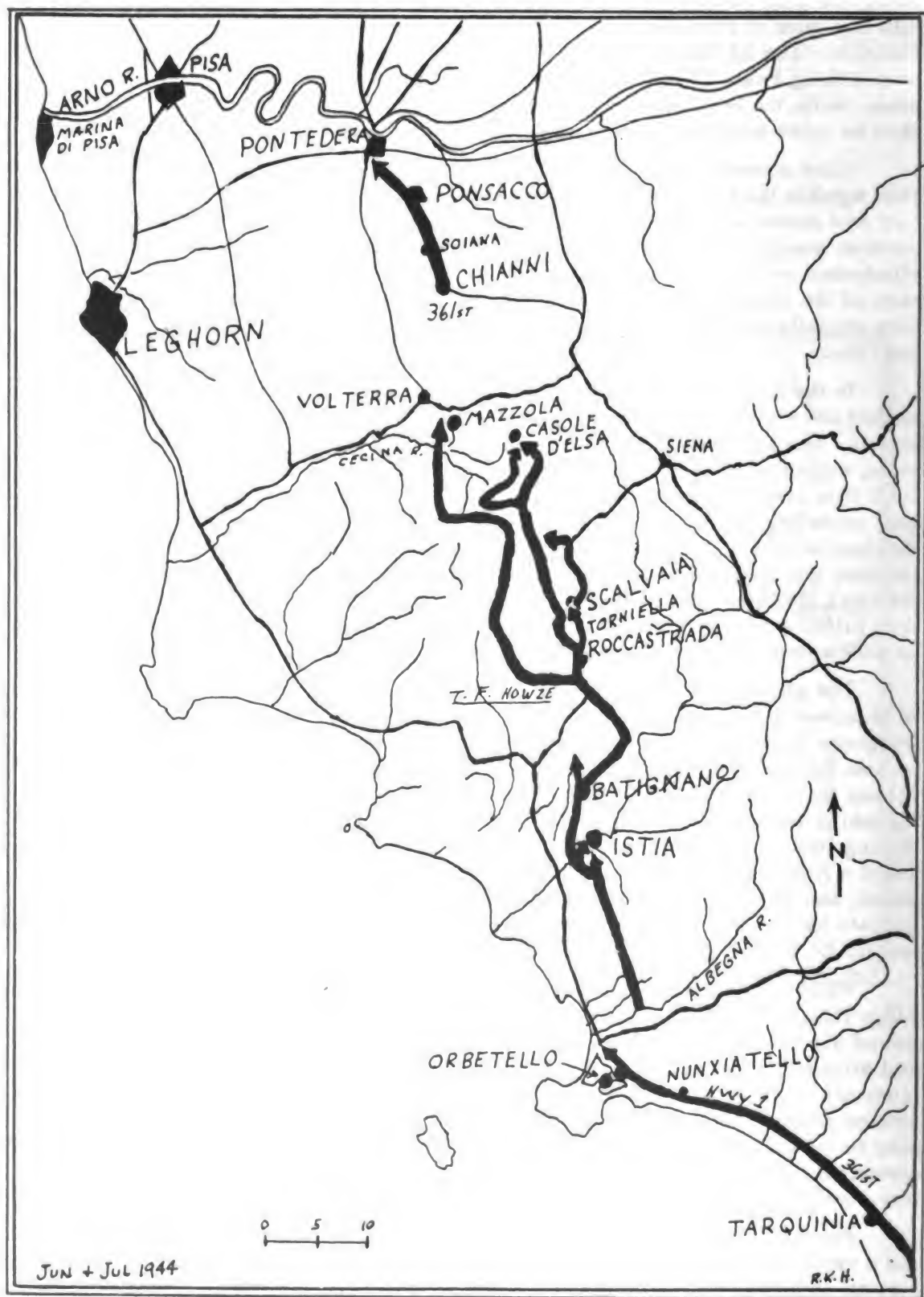
Once across, the 3rd Battalion quickly regrouped and launched a surprise attack against the Germans who had machine guns near several houses and good artillery and mortar support. "L" Company ran into heavy machine gun fire coupled with several enemy counter-attacks. PFC Thomas Gibson, armed with an M-1 Rifle, eliminated two German machine gun crews, drove back an enemy attack, killed sixteen of the enemy before being blinded by mortar fragments, and saved his squad from annihilation. For this heroic action, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

In the meantime, Companies "K" and "L" were busy clearing Hills 61 and 66 behind the town, while "I" Company drove into Ponte D' Istia with two platoons abreast. The left platoon advanced into an olive grove, where three enemy machine guns, supported by mortars, halted the attack. T/Sgt Roy H. Dullum, covered by BAR fire, crawled forward in a one-man attack killing the entire crew of one machine gun, wounding two men of the second gun, and capturing the crew of the third gun. He then led the platoon to the edge of town and there killed two more enemies. A machine gun opened up and Dullum then crept through several buildings to return the fire. He killed three Germans enroute, drove the enemy machine gun away, and then killed seven more of the enemy as they attempted to retreat. For this action he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and was later commissioned.

The other platoon of "I" Company also ran into determined enemy resistance as it moved down the main street. 1st Lt George C. Wilson sent S/Sgt Harry W. Douglass to attack a machine gun on the right while he went down the street after another such enemy weapon. Enemy reinforcements attempted to interfere and Lt Wilson drove them off with rifle fire, killing two of the enemy. Moving into a building which was soon hit several times by artillery, he killed three more enemies. Moving further into town, he killed a sniper, thus freeing one of his squads, eliminated a light machine gun team, crawled to the machine gun which covered the street, and eliminated one of the crew with a grenade. Rising to throw a second grenade he was killed by a previously unobserved sniper. For this example of leadership, Lt Wilson was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

While the Lieutenant was engaged in this one man attack down the main street, S/Sgt Douglass' squad eliminated the machine gun on the right flank. Then, as he moved his squad forward, it came under German fire from the machine gun Lt Wilson had attempted to eliminate. S/Sgt Douglass changed his approach and crawled across the roofs to eliminate three Germans enroute from this vantage point. He then saw an enemy squad moving up the street and disorganized it by rifle fire. Dropping to the street, he found himself behind the hedge where Lt Wilson's body was sprawled. Pausing only slightly, he pulled a grenade and blasted the German crew into eternity.

For this action S/Sgt Douglass received the Distinguished Service Cross. So did a very different type of hero: T/5 Rosario V. Lerma, the aid man, who treated men all over the battlefield and evacuated them right down the street with the Germans filling the area with hot lead. His action was a definite inspiration to the troops.



TARQUINIA TO PONTEDERA

In the face of such a savage and unorthodox assault, Ponte D' Istia fell to "I" Company along with eighty German prisoners. This entire action was observed by the 2d Battalion in the hills across the river, from which vantage point they furnished close mortar support for the gallant "Item" Company.

With the crossing now insured and the key town and hills in American possession, the Regiment resumed its forward movement with the 1st Battalion taking Poggio di Moscona on 17 June, while the 2d Battalion took the three hills numbered 192, 135, and 177. The entire Regiment was then relieved by the 143rd Infantry, but the rest was only to last a few hours.

On 18 Jun 1944, the next day, the 361st Infantry was committed to action with the mission of taking Batignano and the hills to the north. The attack jumped off at 0600 hours with the 3rd Battalion leading out into one of the worst rain storms ever encountered by the Regiment in Italy. Thunder and lightening blotted out both the enemy artillery and our own 916th Field Artillery and, while it was very uncomfortable, the 3rd Battalion was able to advance swiftly, taking three enemy 155 mm artillery pieces, many horses, and other German equipment. By 1000 hours, the weather cleared and the enemy switched its defense to long range tank fire, which, while nasty, could not stop the three battalions from gaining their objectives and consolidating them by nightfall.

On 19 June, the 361st Infantry was withdrawn from the 36th Infantry Division. The 1st and 3rd Battalions were attached to Combat Command A of the 1st Armored Division, the 2d Battalion returned to the 36th Infantry Division reserve and thence to Task Force Howze, while the 916th Field Artillery and Company A, 316th Engineers remained with the 36th Division.

Combat Command A, 1st Armored Division, with 1st and 3rd Battalions of the 361st Infantry, spent the next two weeks advancing along the Batignano-Roccostrada-Monticiano Highway in mountain terrain which was ill-suited for armor and hard on Infantrymen. The Germans made clever use of mines and lashed back fiercely with strong rear-guard actions.

A bitter action was fought near Torniella on 24-25 Jun 1944. Highway No. 73 crosses the Farma River about a mile north of Torniella. The Germans blew the bridges and, as the approaches were too steep and the river too deep for tanks, the advance ground to a muddy halt. The 1st and 3rd Battalions then reverted to Colonel Broedlow and the 361st Infantry inherited the dirty task of forcing the river. "A" Company pushed a bridgehead across the Farma without difficulty and then moved north on Highway No. 73. "C" Company crossed behind "A" and then swung north-east from the highway to attack the town of Scalvaia. "B" Company crossed behind "C" and moved up the highway near "A", while the entire 3rd Battalion assembled in the vicinity of Torniella. On 25 June, "C" Company continued its separate mission of taking Scalvaia. The alert Germans allowed the rifle platoons to pass their positions before attacking the weapons platoon from the flank and rear. "C" Company was surrounded. It turned around and attacked to the rear. A heavy fire fight caused numerous casualties, split the company into several groups and, after it broke out of the trap, forced "C" to withdraw, leaving seven wounded men behind.

PFC Bruce K. Turner, the aid man, rescued all seven of these men in dashes through the enemy units and, for this daring exploit on an exposed and hot battlefield, he received the Distinguished Service Cross.

"B" Company, upon hearing of the fight, attempted to come to the aid of "C", but was quickly pinned down. "A" was engaged in a fight but managed to break contact and was shifted by 1st Battalion to join in a relief expedition which saw both

"A" and "B" underway by 1525 hours. Colonel Broedlow, the Regimental Commander, was also seriously worried about the situation and ordered a heavy artillery concentration on the town and committed the 3rd Battalion to an attack from the east flank. Three hours later "I" Company, spearheading the assault, gained the crest of the nearby ridges, fought its way into town and, by 1930 hours, Scavai was in our hands and "C" Company out of danger.

With such a large bridgehead secured, the advance was once again continued under control of the 1st Armored Division. A very bitter fight developed between 1 and 4 Jul 1944 for the town of Casole d' Elsa; it also fell to the determined 361st Infantry.

Meanwhile, the 2d Battalion, serving with Task Force Howze, continued the attack on the west coast along a parallel highway. It engaged in a hard battle to cross the Cecina River and, under the frowning heights of the ancient city of Volterra, attacked and seized Mazzola on 2 Jul 1944. This thrust denied lateral Highway No. 68 to the Germans who reacted in force. The manpower-short enemy concentrated heavy artillery in the area, and every time a vehicle or tank attempted to come to the aid of the 2d Battalion, the entire region was swept with a tremendous curtain of fire. But the plucky unit held until relieved of this responsibility on the night of 3-4 Jul 1944.

Beginning on 5 July, the 361st Infantry was relieved from all assignments and moved to a new assembly area at Lago della Accesa, where the Regiment reverted to the 91st Infantry Division. The latter had recently arrived in Italy and here the "veteran 361st Regimental Combat Team" rejoined the "Wild West" men.

The 361st Infantry had already served a month of almost continuous combat duty on the Fifth Army front as part of the 34th and 36th Infantry Divisions and the 1st Armored Division. During this time the Regiment had advanced some 90 miles in an aggressive manner--more than one-third the entire distance to be gained by the 91st Infantry Division in Italy--and had taken part in the drive on Rome. It was with pardonable pride that the 361st Infantry looked down on the new green "Powder River" men as they completed preparations and stood ready on the eve of the second phase of Fifth Army's campaign--the drive for the Arno River.

IV Corps had been given the mission of securing Leghorn, the third largest port in Italy, for the U.S. Fifth Army. Inasmuch as the approaches to this city were heavily defended, the IV Corps intended to drive east across the mountainous terrain of central Italy to the Arno River, thus outflanking the city and forcing an enemy withdrawal from the entire area.

This drive to the Arno would also serve the Fifth Army well, for it would place striking units before this natural barrier which protected the famed Gothic Line, the last enemy position south of the Po Valley and, hence, the next objective of the Allied Armies. On the other side the enemy massed troops and artillery to hold this vital area, knowing that once the Fifth and Eighth Armies broke the Gothic Line and entered the Po Valley, the allied mechanical equipment would heavily tip the scales against German arms and drive them from Italian soil. For the enemy it was a case of do or die.

The U.S. IV Corps placed the 34th Infantry Division on the left, the 91st Infantry Division in the center, and the 88th Infantry Division on the right, with the attack scheduled for 12 Jul 1944. The 91st sector consisted of some twelve miles of mountainous terrain dominated by the ridge south of the Arno River and hinged on the city of Ponsacco.

The 91st Division advance was led by the 362d and 363rd Infantry Regiments, with the 361st in reserve. Stiff resistance was offered by the German 1027th and

1059th Infantry Regiments, the 9th and 67th Panzergrenadier Regiments, and the 93rd Artillery Regiment. Three days later, at 0400 hours on 15 July, the 361st Infantry took over the division center from the 363rd Infantry, with 1st Battalion on the left, the 2d Battalion on the right, and the 3rd Battalion in reserve. The 2d Battalion pushed swiftly from Morrona to Soiano, where T/Sgt Clyde W. Lloyd of "E" Company cleaned out the town in a one-man blitz. This action earned him the Distinguished Service Cross.

The 2d Battalion then pushed on past the town only to be hammered by a heavy volume of artillery fire. The entire Battalion was stopped and soon forced back to the rear slopes of the nearby hills as the Germans brought the entire 361st Infantry under intense fire. During this retrograde operation, a gap developed between the 1st and 2d Battalions, which the Germans soon found, and through which they launched a severe counter-attack. "A" Company was inserted in the breach and, in a swift attack, drove the enemy back to their original positions.

The next day, the 361st pushed rapidly to Phase Line C near Via San Marco. From here the 1st Battalion pushed towards Le Selve, where the Germans were concentrating for an attack upon the exposed flank of the Regiment. All artillery of the 91st Division, the 346th, 348th and 916th Field Artillery Battalions, plus Cannon Company 361st and the 81mm mortars of "D" Company, hammered the enemy troop concentration which broke up and withdrew to Orceto.

By late afternoon of the same day, the 2d Battalion was in a position to attack the ridge southwest of Ponsacco but was subjected to murderous artillery and mortar fire. To relieve the pressure, "F" Company was sent around the left flank where it met substantial success until checked by an enemy machine gun. 1st Lt John W. Anderson crawled up to the machine gun, threw two grenades which failed to get the enemy gunners and, in turn, he received a burst of fire which tore open his side and knocked him down. He rose, killed one German with his rifle and took the position. Then a second machine gun opened fire. Bleeding seriously from his wounds, Lt Anderson advanced on this new objective only to be killed by a sniper. For this heroic action he was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

On the next day the 361st Infantry resumed the advance and, to give added weight to the assault, the 3rd Battalion was passed through the right flank of the 2d Battalion; Companies "D" and "E" of the 1st Armored Regiment of the 1st Armored Division were attached, and the 916th Field Artillery Battalion furnished the necessary support. The 3rd Battalion was to drive on Ponsacco with the 2d Battalion covering the flanks, while 1st Battalion took Orceto. The attack jumped off at 0500 hours on 17 July and, while the Germans threw in 25 tanks, they could not stop the 3rd Battalion which, by 1130 hours, had "I" and "K" Companies only half a mile south of Ponsacco. In a few more hours the city was seized by the hard hitting 3rd, while the 2d Battalion took and consolidated the high ground a half mile to the southwest.

While the 2d and 3rd were driving in the center and right flank, the 1st Battalion on the left had run into heavy resistance from Orceto. Hurried calls to division brought a connection with Corps Artillery, the 689th Field Artillery Battalion, which fired twenty-five 240 mm (8-inch) rounds into the town. This "custom service" reduced the threat and freed the 1st Battalion.

The 2d and 3rd Battalions of the 361st Infantry now resumed the offensive with the 2d Battalion of the 1st Armored Regiment and a tank company of the 776th Tank Battalion attached to the striking force. In a rapid drive north, Pontedera, the key objective, was taken. "K" Company 361st, which had entered town first, then pushed on to the Arno River where it became the first unit of the Fifth Army to

reach the Allied objective.

Major General Willis D. Crittenger, commander of IV Corps, wired his congratulations to the 91st Infantry Division. The 361st and 362d then patrolled the banks of the Arno for some ten days, while the 363rd Infantry took Leghorn. The entire division then moved east to join the II Corps and to relieve the 88th Infantry Division while beginning preparations to crack the famed Gothic Line.

For this period of combat service the 361st Infantry Regiment was awarded the Rome-Arno Campaign Streamer (*based on GO 99 WD 1945*).

For the next three weeks, the 91st Infantry Division was given the defensive mission of screening the Fifth Army, while its various elements were regrouping for the next major attack. The "Powder River" Division held the Army's right flank, maintained contact with the 8th Indian Division of the British Eighth Army, while on the left our own 361st Infantry served with 34th Infantry Division's Task Force Ramey in a week long mission of extensive scouting and patrolling.

On 17 Aug 1944, the 91st Division was relieved by the 85th Infantry Division and moved to the rear for specialized training in river crossing techniques, mountain operations with mule supply, and reduction of fortified areas. This training, which was conducted by the 316th Engineers and the 11th Italian Mule Group, lasted well into September.

During this period the Secretary of the Navy, Mr. James V. Forrestal, visited the 91st Infantry Division. Another party of visitors, which consisted of Under Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson, General Mark W. Clark, Lieutenant General Brehon B. Somervell, Major Generals: Willis D. Crittenger, Geoffrey Keyes, and Vernon E. Prichard (*CG 1st Armd Div*) who visited the 361st Infantry where Secretary Patterson decorated six officers and men, reviewed the 2d Battalion and briefly addressed the troops.

After this training the 91st Division returned to the front to replace the 8th Indian Division of the British Eighth Army. Four German divisions faced the "Powder River" men across this front with another in reserve at Prato. Surprisingly, the enemy began a voluntary withdrawal, so the 91st Division retained operational control of the 8th Indian Division, using that unit to maintain contact with the retiring Germans in order to preserve an element of surprise when the 91st Division elements passed through for the attack. With this new situation, the zone of the 91st was shifted to the west so it could attack directly north of Florence along Highway 65, the main road to Bologna.

The 91st Infantry Division relieved the 1st British Division in this new sector on the night of 9 September and jumped off on 10 Sep 1944, with the 361st Infantry serving as division reserve. The 362d and 363rd quickly gained the Sieve River and crossed this barrier on 11 September, supported by 400 bombers. On 13 September, the 361st Infantry was inserted in the center of the division's seven mile front and, inasmuch as, the 91st Division was making the major effort on the II Corps front, all nine Infantry Battalions were placed on the line in this attempt to crack the Gothic Line.

The sector assigned to the 361st Infantry, running north and northeast from Montepoli, was a bowl surrounded on three sides by a mountain range shaped like a horseshoe. At the left point lies Mt. Calvi, to the front Mt. Faggio, Ombrellino, and Mt. Castel Guerrino, and on the right is Monticelli. Mt. Castel Guerrino is the highest point in this section of the rugged Apennine Range and this, and the other mountains, gave the enemy excellent observation of the entire area of operations. The floor of this gigantic bowl is cut into north-south ridges and, unlike the sectors of the 362d and 363rd, the 361st zone had no roads to handle supplies; so rugged was

the terrain, that everything past Coppo had to be carried by mule. In the 91st Division zone there were two avenues of approach--one at Futa Pass (*the most heavily fortified place in the Gothic Line*)--and the other in the 361st zone of action. This latter place, while heavily fortified, was not prepared in depth and it would be equally, or more, difficult for the enemy to supply his forces in this area.

The 361st jumped off at 1545 hours on 14 Sep 1944, with the 3rd Battalion on the left, the 1st Battalion on the right, the 2d Battalion in reserve, and advanced into what the unit historian called "cannon to the right of them, cannon to the front, and cannon to the left." The Regiment was immediately met by fire from all three sides but managed to make good progress during the morning hours. It was slowed down and almost stopped in the afternoon. General Livesay then ordered the 361st to disregard restrictions and fire all the ammunition it could haul.

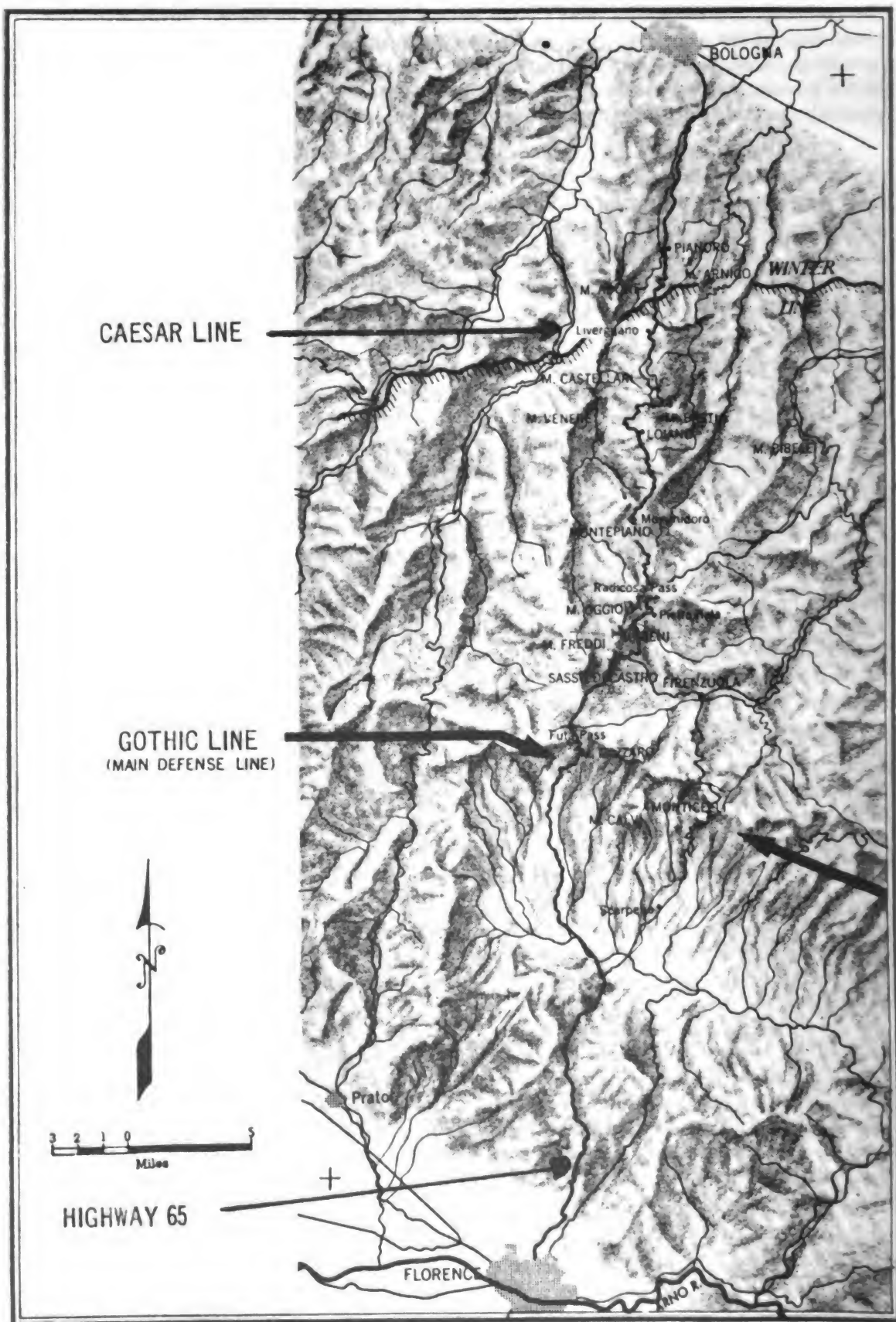
On 15 September, the men advanced past barbed-wire entanglements, pillboxes, and dug-in positions which were so well built that 105mm shells just bounced off. On the next day, the 2d Battalion was inserted on the right to attack Mt. Roncolombello and all three battalions were now subjected to the fiercest resistance. Three German counter-attacks were made in an attempt to drive a wedge between 1st and 3rd Battalions but the enemy was stopped and thrown back by the regimental reserve, "B" Company.

Now all units were in action. The 3rd Battalion attacked Mt. Calvi with heavy losses while "I" and "K" Companies pushed through to Hill 840 where "I" repulsed a heavy counter-attack while suffering a considerable number of casualties. During the night the exposed "I" and "K" Companies were pulled off Hill 840 and moved to the rear of 2d Battalion, while "F" Company was sent to the aid of the 363rd Infantry on Monticelli. All in all, the third day of this offensive had witnessed bitter fighting and very little gains but many pillboxes had been methodically reduced, minefields breached, and barbed-wire entanglements blown up.

On 18-19 September, this tremendous pressure, and the resulting heavy German casualties, began paying off as the enemy started to crack. The desperate Germans rushed in reinforcements from the famous Lehr Brigade, the 715th Division, and the tough 4th Parachute Division, but the overall enemy organization was unable to cope with this kind of situation, and, in the resulting disorganization, the 91st Infantry Division was able to capture 502 Germans during the next three days.

On 19 September, the telling blow was struck by "E" Company, 361st Infantry, when it took Hill 844--the most heavily fortified position in the regimental sector. This crippled the enemy's defensive pattern. With this wedge opened, the 361st now drove for the ridge line 1035-1117 (*Mt. Castel Guerrino*) with the enemy fighting rear-guard actions from hasty field positions. By evening all the peaks, except 1035, were in the hands of the 361st Infantry. The next day the Regiment pushed against light resistance to Castro San Martino overlooking the Santerno River, but in a country where rugged terrain and rain made it a difficult task. The 1st and 3rd Battalions could only be supplied by mules, yet "B" Company pushed to a position from which it could cover Futa Pass from the east with machine gun fire.

Futa Pass itself was taken by the 362d Infantry and this completely broke the famed Gothic Line, which had already been outflanked by both the 361st and 363rd Infantry Regiments. The "Powder River" men, in twelve days of combat, cracked wide open a defensive position (*which the famous Todt Organization spent a year preparing*) and overcame the Apennine Mountains, a formidable obstacle in itself. Major General Keyes, the II Corps commander, wired: "NINETY FIRST HAS



FROM FLORENCE TO BOLOGNA

INDEED WON ITS SPURS."

The 91st Division resumed the attack with the next objective being the city of Bologna, but a good many obstacles remained before that city would be reached. The enemy had strong defensive forces holding Mt. Freddi, Mt. Beni, and Mt. Ogglioli, and all three of these peaks blocked the highway in this region.

On 23 and 24 Sep 1944, the Regiment took Selva and Casellina under heavy artillery fire, while "K" Company took Covigliaio in a house to house fight; and 2d Battalion easily pushed into La Casetta. On the following day, the 2d Battalion with "G" Company on the left, and "E" and "F" Companies on the right, took Mt. Beni. Here the enemy fought a determined rearguard action with troops going to their death rather than being captured. "E" Company then pushed on to the base of Mt. Ogglioli, which fell on 28 September to the 361st and 363rd, whose units were hopelessly and completely intermingled. While this attack was in progress, the remainder of the 2d Battalion, 361st Infantry, drove up Highway 65, taking Radicosa Pass and pushing on to La Posta, where they were relieved by the 362d Infantry. The Regiment now moved to the rear for a well deserved period of rest and recuperation, largely because General Livesay figured it had been hardest hit.

The new German defenses now centered on Monghidoro which the 91st attacked. From this point (*Monghidoro*) one can see the great Po Valley, but taking it was another thing, and resulted in a very heavy battle--the hardest, in fact, that our sister regiment, the 362d, was to experience during World War II. The 362d was unable to clear the area and its advance was checked before the town of Loiana. Supporting artillery then plastered the area with 4,018 rounds and, on 5 October, the 361st Infantry was inserted on the right flank of the stalled regiment, given a 1000 round preparatory fire by Division Artillery, and moved out, maintaining contact with the 362d on the left and the 85th Infantry Division on the right.

It was a peculiar type of fighting due to heavy fog and hard rain which created a great deal of confusion. No air activity was possible during this period of the campaign and so the burden fell on the 91st Division Artillery which fired over 18,000 rounds in five days of heavy action. The terrain in this part of the Apennine Mountains is hilly, open, and consists of a gradual slope from Loiano to Livergnano. The men of the 361st were not actually sure what it looked like as they drove forward in the fog with the 1st and 3rd Battalions meeting little resistance, yet subjected to heavy mortar fire as if the enemy was blindly searching the area. As darkness settled on the foggy battlefield, "I" and "K" Companies were once again spearheading the Regiment and pushed into Fortuna, some one and a quarter miles behind the German's front line and, of course, a similar distance ahead of the rest of the American Army--but the 362d had been rescued.

Now the lonely 361st had arrived before the most formidable natural barrier between the Santerno River and the Po Valley--the Livergnano Escarpment. The latter is a five mile long and, at places, 700 foot high steep face of rock, with parts of the upper half a cliff, or really a sheer perpendicular rock wall. There was no way of going around. There are only two breaks in that part of the rocky mass which was in the 91st Division sector. One is an inadequate trail at Bigallo in the 363rd Infantry zone of action, and the other at Livergnano, where Highway 65, the route from Florence to Bologna, passed through this barrier.

Since the 361st reached this obstacle considerably in advance of the 362d and 363rd, both flanks were, thus, exposed to hostile German fire, and the Regiment was faced with the problem of maintaining all-around security while continuing the advance. The left of the Regimental sector was on Highway 65, and here the 1st Battalion, consisting of "K," "C," "B," and "D" Companies, was given the

mission of driving through Livergnano and seizing Hills 544 and 603. The 3rd Battalion, consisting of "A," "L," "I," and "M" Companies, was given a series of independent missions to seize dominant terrain features on the flanks. The 2d Battalion was to move to the right towards Bigallo, where a footpath existed, make its way up the rim of the rock, and then move westward along the spine of this mass to seize Hills 592, 504, and 481, thus clearing the entire barrier and enter Livergnano from the east. This 361st Infantry plan was an application of the classic hammer and anvil maneuver, with 1st Battalion the base and 2d Battalion the hammer--but the Germans in between, aided by the hills, proved to be a very tough "metal."

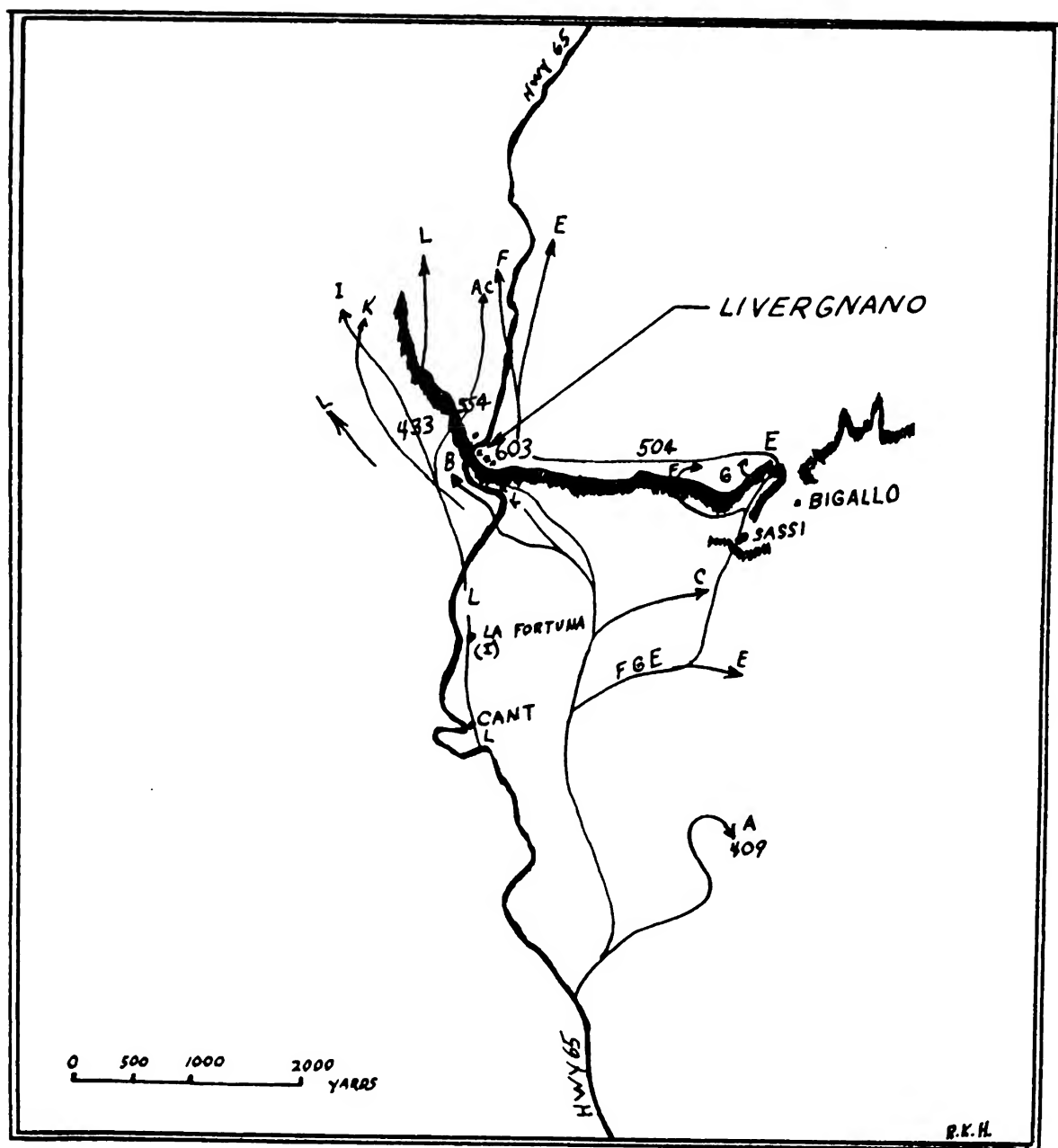
The attack jumped off on 9 Oct 1944. In the 3rd Battalion sector, "A" Company moved onto Hill 409, more than a mile in the rear of the front, to protect the right rear flank of the Regiment. "I" Company established and maintained a roadblock at La Fortuna on Highway 65, while a mile further to the rear, "L" Company secured Cant and the left rear of the Regiment. The Germans immediately attacked "I" and "K" Companies (*the latter near Livergnano with 1st Bn*) in a desperate assault, only to be driven back after extremely heavy fighting.

General Livesay then ordered the 361st to send a platoon into Livergnano. This assignment fell to the 3rd Platoon, "K" Company, which managed to reach the town only to be met by such intense fire from Hill 603 that it was forced to take refuge in a pigsty under a nearby house. The Germans, who had excellent observation posts, were able to prevent the remainder of "K" Company from moving up to the aid of the 3rd Platoon during daylight hours. After 1900 hours, the 2d Platoon came into the town (*really no more than a village*), followed by the 1st Platoon and the Weapons Platoon. The entire company was now driven by intense machine gun, automatic weapon, and rifle fire into the same large building where the 3rd Platoon had sought shelter earlier in the day as the Germans made things miserable.

At dawn of the next day, 10 Oct 1944, the enemy launched a heavy attack, which "K" Company beat off. The Germans then returned with two tanks which fired point blank into the building, while a tremendous number of German mortars and machine guns smothered the area. As the building began to fall apart, the firing ceased and the enemy infantry assaulted. "K" Company was eliminated. Although ten men from the 3rd Platoon, still in the pigsty under the house, were overlooked by the Germans, and during the night crept out and back to the Regiment, 81 men were captured, while the remainder of the nearly 200 men had been killed in this savage little battle.

When the plight of "K" Company became known in the rear, Companies "G," "C," and "B" were thrown into a desperate assault to relieve the pressure. The Field Artillery fired over 600 rounds on the hapless village and the surrounding area, while three air strikes jolted the Germans, but the enemy held grimly to its positions. Under this cover our Infantry advanced only by the bitterest sort of fighting, yet it could not get to Livergnano. That evening a new and very skeleton "K" Company was formed from the ten survivors, in addition to many new replacements; the next morning it was back on the line moving out on a new mission.

While the 1st Battalion (*with "K" Company*) was engaged in this desperate opening of what was to be five days of heart breaking, bitter fighting, the 2d Battalion, some distance to the east, was in just as precarious a position. The 2d Battalion had jumped off on time, pushing from Vaiano to Pescare, and then to Sassi. Here they began to climb the steep escarpment under cover of heavy fog. No trail existed, so they reached the top by climbing and scaling. The machine guns had to be taken apart and put in the men's packs to accomplish this difficult move, but it paid off for they reached the top, seemingly unobserved, with "E" Company lead-



LIVERGNANO

ing out onto the rocky spine. Suddenly the fog lifted, visibility was superb, and the enemy was able to observe all movements over this entire area. The well hidden Germans let the lead scouts pass and then opened fire on the leading platoon. After an afternoon of almost superhuman effort by "E" Company, two platoons managed to establish a shaky position on top of the escarpment overlooking Casola and were determined not to be driven off. "G" Company, in an heroic effort, managed to crawl in on the left of "E", while "F" and "H" were still at the base of the cliff near Sassi. The Germans counter-attacked in the growing darkness of that same day but were beaten off. The enemy then regrouped and returned to the attack, hitting the flank of "G" Company and attempted to split "G" from "E," but once again they were thrown back.

Thus at the end of this day of torturous and savage fighting, "G" and "E" Companies were on top of this lowest part of the escarpment, but completely under observation from the surrounding hills. It was like being on the lower rim of a tilted saucer with the enemy on the upper rim and more than half way around. The high ground still had to be taken.

The Germans spent the entire next day, 10 Oct 1944, attacking "G" and "E," moving around on the flank, and reoccupying Piscare, thereby pinning "F" Company to the base of the cliff. During the day, "F" Company had attempted to reach "G" and "E" but had lost its supporting heavy machine guns (*from "H" Company*) to the enemy and was driven back to Sassi with heavy casualties. The 91st Division then committed the entire 363rd Infantry on the right of the 361st in an attempt to increase the pressure, while optimistically giving the 361st Infantry the added missions of securing Mt. Adone and Mt. dei Frate.

The situation of "G" and "E" Companies was fast becoming desperate and both companies were decimated as the Germans fought savagely to check this offensive. General Livesay ordered the 361st to hold its positions until the 362d and 363rd could catch up, and further ordered elements of the 363rd Infantry to get to the top of the escarpment by that evening. Companies "A" and "C", 363rd Infantry, scaled the cliff that night and moved in on the right of "E," 361st, as the desperate fire-fight continued. With so many Americans in such a small and inaccessible place, the problems of supply and evacuation became extremely difficult. It took as much as sixteen hours to bring a wounded man down by hand-carrying and four hours for an individual runner to negotiate a one-way trip from the front to the 2d Battalion command post.

In the rear, "A" and "I" Companies came under heavy German attacks which they managed to beat off. It seemed like every unit of the Regiment was engaged with the enemy as the 10th of October came to a close.

On the next day, "B" Company resumed the attack in the Livergnano area with an assault on Hill 603, which overlooks that town. The Germans had over 200 men, three tanks, and a platoon of mortars in position and, thus, were able to drive "B" Company back in a day of savage fighting.

That evening, Lt Col Howard W. Reynolds, commander of the 1st Battalion, had "A" Company returned to his command and was ordered to have "A" and "C" make a night attack in an effort to cut Highway 65 north of Livergnano. "C" Company led out exactly at midnight and, in eight hours, gained Il Molinetto and Hill 433, while "A" Company made progress towards Hill 554. "C" was now directed to attack Hill 554 but failed in a very brave fight, while "B" Company was engaged in cave fighting on Hill 603, where notable progress was made, but "B" just could not reach the crest.

Division artillery and sizeable air support continued to hammer the area as

the 1st Battalion had "A" Company switch missions with "C" and attack Hill 554 once again. The artillery poured 8,400 rounds on the enemy, tank destroyers added another 324 rounds, while in the air 222 medium bombers flew 250 missions against the determined German defenders—but the enemy still held the high ground.

A new attack order was issued by the 361st Infantry for 13 October. The 91st Division field artillery fired a tremendous concentration of 2,120 rounds in 16 minutes on the stunned Germans. "F" Company jumped off in a lucky fashion, taking Hill 592 from the rear with the aid of a *paesano* who led the men over an unknown path. The battered "G" and "E" Companies attacked and took Casole after being pinned down for five and a half days. The 2d Battalion immediately reorganized and moved westward, rapidly taking Hill 481. Then it moved around Hill 603, where "B" was engaged, and cut Highway 65 north of Livergnano. The enemy was now in a hopeless position, which became even worse as "B" Company completed the conquest of Hill 603.

The enemy finally pulled out of Livergnano and off the remainder of Hill 554. "B" Company observed the withdrawal and radioed the glad tidings to Regimental Headquarters, who, in turn, ordered "K" Company into town to investigate if the news was true. It was. "K" Company now occupied Livergnano four days after after that very company had been eliminated in this same village, a fitting honor to these dead-tired, but devoted, men and a solemn moment for all who watched.

On the next day the 361st Infantry continued the attack, led by the 2d Battalion, towards Mt. Adone. The 91st Division then gave this mission to the 362d Infantry as sectors were changed to permit full use of the 1st Armored Division on this part of the Fifth Army front. For the 361st, "A," "I," "K," and "L" Companies now led in a drive aimed at DiSotta and, once again, "covered" by heavy fog. When the fog lifted, "A" Company found it was surrounded and, only with a great deal of effort, was it able to withdraw. The 2d Battalion then passed through the leading elements and gained DiSotta in savage fighting. "E" Company, however, had to fight in the dark to reach the Line of Departure and when they reached it, were hit by two self-propelled artillery pieces and four Mark IV Tanks. Only a tremendous artillery concentration saved "E" from annihilation. Company "C", 755th Tank Battalion, was rushed to the aid of "E" and had two tanks destroyed in the desperate fighting. "G" Company was stopped cold, while the 3rd Battalion gained the dominating positions near Gruppi. All in all, it was a period of desperate and unproductive fighting.

The 91st Infantry Division spent the next three days maneuvering for better positions under heavy enemy fire, when, on 22 Oct 1944, General Livesay ordered the division to pass over to the defensive.

The offensive of the II Corps had spent itself. Parts of the 85th and 88th Infantry Divisions had been withdrawn for duty in the northeast where other divisions had been recalled from the Fifth Army for service elsewhere in Europe. Too few troops remained to continue the attack.

The offensive just ended had involved some of the most bitter and difficult fighting of the Italian campaign. In the jagged Apennines, in extremely bad weather and desperate opposition by the forces of General Kesselring, the II Corps, including the 91st Infantry Division, had broken the much publicized Gothic Line and the little heard of, but much more difficult, Caesar Line at Livergnano. For this operation, the 361st Infantry Regiment was awarded the Campaign Streamer "North Apennines" (based on GO 94 W.D. 1945), while all companies of the 3rd Battalion were awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation Streamer for service above and beyond the call of duty by direction of the President (GO 58 W.D. 1945).

The entire Fifth Army now passed over to the defensive with the one aim of containing the enemy. The heavy drain of divisions from Italy to France had seriously reduced the offensive power of the Army. For six long months through that winter of 1944-45, the Regiment sat down facing and watching Mt. Adone and its defenders, the German 4th Paratroop Division. The enemy only launched one attack during this period, on the night of 18-19 November. This attack was repulsed by the 2d Battalion, 361st Infantry. Other than this, only "extensive," but dirty and bitter raids, took place along this well dug in front; position warfare had returned to Italy after a quarter of a century.

For eleven days in November, the 361st was relieved by the 133rd Infantry, 34th Infantry Division and moved to the Fifth Army Rest Area at Montecatini. The Regiment returned to the front on 1 Dec 1944. In January of 1945, the Regiment was again given rear area duty until it was relieved by the 351st Infantry of the 88th Infantry Division and became the reserve force of the II Corps from 17 January to 6 Feb 1945. On the latter date, the 361st trudged back to the front to replace the 135th Infantry, 34th Infantry Division, and remained on this sector until the Spring offensive.

On 1 Apr 1945, the entire 91st Division was relieved by units of the new Italian Army, the Legnano Group, Italian Corps of Liberation, which was serving with the Allied Army. The long defensive winter mission from 22 Oct 1944 to 1 Apr 1945, with its defensive construction, which would be familiar to veterans of World War I and Korea, was over. Gone were thoughts of bunkers, positions in depth, intermediate lines, switch positions, and the heavy blankets of snow.

First the 362d and the 363rd were relieved by the Italian 68th Infantry and the Italian Special Regiment, so that, for a short period of time, the 91st Infantry Division front consisted of these two Italian Regiments, plus the 361st Infantry supported by the artillery of the 34th Infantry Division. During this period of a mixed, or "internationalized," 91st Division on the front, General Kuo of the Chinese Nationalist Army visited the 361st, as did a correspondent of *Collier's*, Mrs. Mary Bradley. The 361st Infantry continued to hold the front, while the 362d and 363rd were strenuously trained and were partially re-equipped. On the nights of 2-3 and 3-4 Apr 1945, the 361st was relieved by the 133rd Infantry of the 34th Infantry Division and moved to Le Croce. Here the 361st undertook an immediate rehabilitation of troops and received intensive instruction in the many subjects pertaining to offensive warfare.

The 91st Infantry Division was again given the main task of the II Corps. The "Powder River" men were to drive up Highway 65, break the enemy's Brown and Black defensive lines, and take Mt. Adone, the key terrain feature on the II Corps front. This area was held by the German 65th Division and the excellent 157th Mountain Division, composed largely of Austrians and Bavarians. The 361st Infantry, in turn, was given the II Corps objective (*Mt. Adone*) as its own special project and the support of 445 pieces of artillery along the 91st Division front to aid in this task.

On 15 Apr 1945, 756 heavy bombers hit Highways 64 and 65, 300 medium bombers attacked the bridges over the Reno River, while fighter-bombers (*largely P-47's*) worked over the enemy artillery. The Army Air Force repeated this attack on the next day, 16 April, and after a preparatory fire of 1,823,400 pounds of artillery ammunition (*a 91st Div record*), the 361st jumped off with the 2d Battalion on the left, the 3rd Battalion on the right, and the 1st Battalion in support.

Within the 361st Infantry Regiment, the 2d Battalion was given the mission of taking Mt. Adone, so on this unit fell the entire burden of the II Corps offensive.

"E" Company was immediately halted as it ran into a minefield covered by heavy automatic weapons and machine gun fires. "G" Company was hard hit as the Germans fought back in a desperate effort to hold this position, but throughout the day the 3rd Battalion, on the right flank, continued to make good progress with "I" Company leading the way. On the next day the attack continued with "E," "F," and "G" bearing the brunt of the fighting, while the entire 3rd Battalion continued to move forward against dwindling opposition. On the third day the 2d Battalion, in a supreme effort, drove swiftly and dramatically through hundreds of pillboxes, dug-outs, machine gun positions, cleaned out several large caves, and by 1142 hours reached the top of the 2,161 foot Mt. Adone, cracking the German winter line and rendering the defense of Bologna an impossibility for the enemy.

This day, 18 Apr 1945, when the 361st planted the American Flag atop Mt. Adone, is considered one of the greatest days in the history of the 91st Infantry Division and General Keyes (*II Corps*) wired: *"CONGRATULATIONS ON THE CAPTURE OF MONTE ADONE. PLEASE GIVE MY COMPLIMENTS TO THE 361."* This success, like any other, however, was not without its cost for, in these two days just ended, the assaulting elements of the division suffered 432 casualties.

On 19 Apr 1945, the Regiment attacked the Mt. Posigliano area in very bitter and costly fighting with the 1st Battalion leading. The entire offensive was dishearteningly limited by stubborn enemy resistance and tremendous artillery fire. The enemy was determined to exact a high price from the units attempting to exploit the breaking of the winter line. On this same day the 2d Battalion jumped off, taking Mt. Della Capanna, another key terrain feature. Again General Keyes wired: *"CONGRATULATIONS UPON THE CAPTURE OF MONTE DELLA CAPANNA. MY COMPLIMENTS TO THE THREE SIX ONE. KEEP UP THE DRIVE."* This the Regiment did for, on the next day, "K" Company took Mt. Belvedere; the 1st Battalion seized Mt. Sabbiuino; and the 2d Battalion, passing through 1st Battalion, took Hill 286 which overlooks Bologna. The German position was now desperate, and while the 361st was not allowed to enter that city, but diverted to the west, its deeds did not go unnoticed.

The 361st had gained the key to Bologna in the desperate battles for Mt. Adone and the surrounding hill mass leading to Hill 286. This superb achievement was recognized when, under the authority of the President, the Distinguished Unit Citation Streamer "Bologna" was awarded to all units of the 2d Battalion (*based on GO 90 W.D. 1945*). It cannot be forgotten, however, that the men felt a bitter disappointment in not being permitted to enter that famous city.

Now the 91st Division, as part of the Fifth Army, entered into a new phase of warfare for Italy. That was the rapid pursuit of the German forces across the floor of the Po Valley. The enemy never made it, for the bulk of his forces were trapped and cut to pieces in the valley as motorized American units easily overtook the horse-drawn and marching Germans and crushed the few enemy mechanized units.

Several sharp and very bitter fights occurred, but by 25 April the Po River had been crossed and a race for Treviso begun. The 361st Infantry covered the 70 miles by 30 Apr 1945, taking some 5,000 prisoners in the last forty-eight hours. For this swift action the 91st Division received the following wire from General Keyes: *"CONGRATULATIONS ON THE SPLENDID RACE AND CAPTURE OF TREVISO. PLEASE GIVE MY WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS TO THE THREE SIXTY FIRST."*

All combat in Italy ended at 1900 hours on 2 May 1945. The 91st Infantry Division was then assigned to the 13th British Corps for the occupation of the Venezia Giulia Province, including Trieste, a region claimed by Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia, and in this assignment the 361st Infantry moved rapidly to Gorizia, entering



BOLOGNA TO GORIZIA

that city with colors, guidons, and streamers flying, as they relieved the 167th Brigade of the British 65th Division. The 361st Infantry now had the 1st Battalion of the famed Coldstream Guards attached and Colonel Broedlow immediately deployed the reinforced Regiment to meet any situation, including the sending of the 2d Battalion some nine miles to the west to block any north-south penetration along the river line.

On 13 May 1945, Yugoslav forces blocked all entrances into Gorizia, refusing to allow American or British vehicles to pass. The 361st Infantry was alerted, the 91st Division quickly notified the remainder of its units, air patrols were conducted every two hours, all artillery was registered on potential targets, and all three regiments were in defensive positions as the situation became extremely tense.

On 23 May, Colonel Grobar, Commanding Officer of the Yugoslav 13th Division, informed the 1st Battalion, 361st Infantry, that unless it was withdrawn, he had orders from the Commanding General of the Yugoslav 4th Army to drive it out. Colonel Broedlow ordered 1st Battalion to hold its positions and called the 91st Division which, in turn, alerted the British 13th Corps and the British Eighth Army under which the "Powder River" men were operating. After several hurried conferences no attack developed and it would seem that this show of force convinced the Yugoslav Army that we intended to fight--it was our introduction to the techniques of the "cold War." Aside from several more of these threats, nothing developed and the 361st was able to settle down on its part of the Morgan Line.

On 19 Jun 1945, the 91st Infantry Division was placed in Category II for redeployment to the Pacific and the command of General Douglas MacArthur. On 28 July, the Division held a review at Gorizia airport, at which time the 3rd Battalion, 361st Infantry, received the Distinguished Unit Citation Streamers from General Lucian K. Truscott. Then began the busy days of packing, loading, and unloading, which accompany any move, and soon the Regiment was once again on the high seas headed for the United States. On board the "Kingston Victory" Colonel Broedlow presented the streamers of the Distinguished Unit Citation to the 2d Battalion in appropriate ceremonies.

While most men of the Regiment were on well deserved furloughs, Japan surrendered, and so, on 13 Nov 1945, the 361st Infantry Regiment was inactivated for the second time in its career, at Camp Rucker, Alabama.

392 Officers and Enlisted Men had been killed, or died of wounds, in the bitter Italian Campaigns. Three Campaign Streamers had been added to the Regimental Colors along with the Infantry Combat Streamer, while the 2d and 3d Battalions had received the Distinguished Unit Citation by direction of the President of the United States. The 361st Infantry Regiment was now one of the veteran units of the United States Army.

UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE

After World War II, the position of the United States had changed. Now the nation no longer attempted to return to "normalcy," as a younger America had attempted but, instead, accepted the heavy international commitments which go along with world leadership and which, in turn, require a strong Regular Army and an adequate reserve. In keeping with these goals, reserve divisions, containing both officers and noncommissioned officers as a later ready force to back up the Regular Army, and the early ready National Guard, were ordered activated in 1947.

The 361st Infantry Regiment, as part of the 91st Infantry Division, was assigned to the Sixth Army and was activated by Lt Col Richard H. Neddersen on 25 Mar 1947, with its headquarters group at the Presidio of San Francisco. One battalion was located in San Francisco, while the other two were assigned to Los Angeles. On 22 Jan 1948, the 361st Infantry was moved from those two cities to the Oakland Army Base, where 103 officers and 12 enlisted men served in Headquarters, Service, Cannon, and Anti-Tank Companies, and in the 1st and 2d Battalions under Lt Colonels John B. Cooper and Earl L. Mullinix respectively. The 3rd Battalion was inactive. During this same busy year of 1948, the 361st Infantry attended the first summer camp which was held at Fort Ord, California between the 11th and 25th of July.

On 11 Jan 1949, Colonel Lemuel C. Cragholm (*Armor*) became the Commanding Officer of the 361st Infantry and took the Regiment to Fort Lewis for summer training between 20 August and 4 Sep 1949. In this same year the 361st received a reorganization with Tank Company replacing Cannon Company, and Heavy Mortar Company joining the Regiment in place of Anti-Tank Company. Growth was also reflected in another way as the 3rd Battalion was activated in San Jose under Lt Col Arthur L. Lance and, thus, the entire Regiment was now in the San Francisco Bay Area.

In June 1950, the 1st Battalion was transferred from Oakland Army Base to Palo Alto under command of Major (*later Lt Col*) David M. Kirk in an effort to obtain greater enlisted support. Two weeks later war started in Korea and as American forces were committed to action in that far off land, the 361st Infantry went on an increased training schedule and then to summer training at Fort Lewis, Washington, between the 8th and 23rd of July. While at Camp, the supporting units furnished by the 2d Infantry Division were withdrawn and rushed to Korea. The 361st Infantry and the 91st Infantry Division now were on their own without any equipment but, by the dint of some superior scrounging and brilliant thinking, the adjustment to a self-sustaining basis was achieved and a great deal accomplished.

At the close of 1950, with war clouds in the Far East threatening to engulf even more Army units, Lt Col Neddersen again assumed command, the only officer to command the Regiment twice. With the coming of Spring in 1951, the 361st Infantry turned to week-end drills with a heavy concentration on weapons. This stepped-up training ended when the Regiment underwent summer maneuvers at Camp Cooke, California, between 15-21 July. While week-end drills were attempted upon return to home station, they were abandoned with the coming of winter.

At the end of 1951, the War Department decided to replace all Armored and Airborne Divisions in the Reserve with Infantry units. In the ensuing shift of units, the 363rd Infantry was moved from Los Angeles to the San Francisco Bay Area, receiving the Palo Alto and San Jose areas and units from the 361st Infantry. The 1st Battalion, 361st Infantry was now moved to Vallejo under Major (*later Lt Col*) Laurence K. Rice, and the 3rd Battalion to Marysville under Lt Col William G. Herbert, while Lt Col Constant C. Delwiche commanded the 2d Battalion at Oakland.

The year 1952 witnessed a change in the character of summer training as the Regiment went to Hunter Liggett Military Reservation, California between the 6th and 21st of July. Living under field conditions in shelter-halves during this very hot summer, the Regiment practiced withdrawals and defense of river lines in addition to the normal weapons firing schedule. The Regiment also participated in the annual Division Review which was taken by Lt General Joseph M. Swing, the Commander of the Sixth Army, and found itself on the come-back trail in athletics as the 361st team captured the Division Softball Trophy. This much coveted award was presented to the Regiment in a very pleasing ceremony by the Assistant Division Commander in the name of the Division Commander, Major General C. Lyn Fox (*then Brig. Gen.*).

The next year saw the Regiment returning to Hunter Liggett with improved conditions brought about by large squad tents, cots, and partly conditioned by familiarity with the area. The 361st furnished the Division Honor Guard to meet Major General Palmer, G 3 of Army Field Forces, who took the review held on the nearby airstrip. Throughout summer camp, vigorous training and considerable small arms firing were stressed with the Regiment performing in a creditable manner. Upon return to home station, Lt Col Mackenzie E. Porter relieved Lt Col Alfred W. Rollins as Executive Officer of the Regiment, and preparations were pushed for moving the 361st to its own building on the Army Base.

The year of 1954 opened well for the 361st Infantry with a special ceremony being held on 25 February, at which time Major General William F. Dean, the heroic leader of the 24th Infantry Division in Korea, and then Deputy Commanding General of Sixth Army, presented before an appreciative audience in the auditorium of Fremont High School the Campaign Streamers awarded to the 361st Infantry for combat service in France and Belgium during World War I and Italy in World War II. On 11 Jul 1954, the Regiment again returned to Hunter Liggett as part of the 91st Division for its annual summer training. During this period principles learned in the classroom were tested under actual field conditions. The results were pleasing to all concerned. In addition to this field work, the 361st soon developed the finest area in the 91st Division and, in fact, led all other units on the post, including those of the 63rd Infantry Division. A special day called "A Day with the 91st" was conducted on the second Tuesday, at which time visiting labor, industrial, and civic leaders of San Francisco witnessed a day of training.

The "Day with the 91st" included a division review taken by Governor Goodwin J. Knight of California, an Army type noon meal at the Division Headquarters, and a demonstration of a reinforced battalion assault across a lake during the afternoon. Major General Dean, the Deputy Commander of the Sixth Army, visited the Regiment in the field, giving instruction in the need of terrain sketching to the men, and later visited the Regimental area where he remained for the noon meal. The training and working pace of that summer were swift, but under these conditions the 361st came off first; others followed.

As the Regiment prepares for the 1955 Unit Field Training at Camp Roberts, California, it is perhaps appropriate to compare today's Regiment with our own past. When compared to the fifteen-day trained cadre which built the magnificent World War I outfit, or the hastily rounded up cadre from the 1st Cavalry Division, which forged the hard hitting team of World War II, both of which were just a collection of strangers without much of the necessary equipment, it can be seen that today's cadre Regiment is better prepared for what the future may contain than at any time in this Nation's past.

Hard training, constantly higher goals, and a similar devotion to our traditions, will forge a unit which will continue the traditional watchword: "The 361st Leads - Others Follow," and create many friendships which you will never forget.

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